

Israel lets Syria count its troops on occupied Golan Heights — report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel has allowed Syria to conduct an exceptional check of Israeli forces on the Golan Heights to calm suspicions there had been a buildup on the occupied plateau, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted a senior army official. Brigadier General Dudu Tzur, as saying the count was conducted at Syria's request by the U.N. over a recent two-day period.

An army spokeswoman was unable to immediately confirm the report.

Syria asked for the check out of concern that growing tensions between Damascus

and the right-wing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in recent months may have led Israel to boost its forces on the Golan Heights, Haaretz said.

"In many ways this check calmed the security situation," Gen. Tzur told the Haaretz.

The report came a day after a senior military official said Syria was preparing itself for a possible surprise attack on the Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 war.

The official told a closed briefing in parliament that Syria would apparently prefer a diplomatic path to

recover the Golan but that given the 18-month-old stalemate in peace talks with Israel could order a limited military strike in hopes it would break the deadlock.

His remarks were relayed to reporters by a parliament spokesman.

Syria is demanding a full Israeli retreat from the Golan Heights and other territory occupied by Israel since 1967 in exchange for peace.

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected this position as a starting point for a return to negotiations although he has not ruled out any territorial concessions.

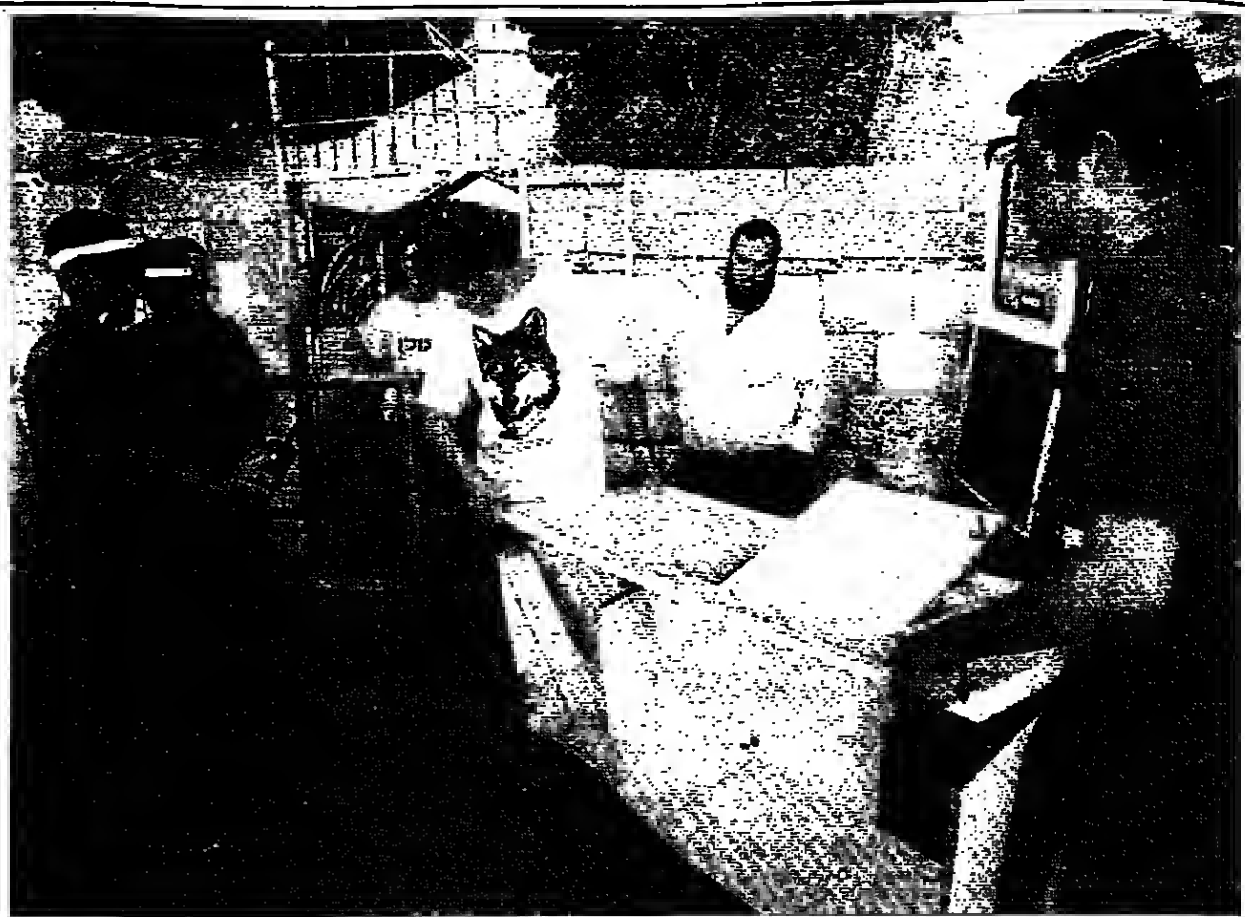
Under an Israeli-Syrian

disengagement agreement signed following the 1973 Mideast war, Israel and Syria have the right to conduct checks on the other's forces around the Golan every two weeks through the U.N.

The checks would include noting the number of troops, tanks and other equipment in the area.

Each side also has the right to request an exceptional check, not in the agreement, to be carried out with 24 hours advance notice.

The Haaretz said this clause of the agreement had not been implemented prior to the recent spot check.



SETTLERS MOVING IN

ISRAELI JEWISH settlers (photo above) on Tuesday move their kitchen sink into one of the houses they have occupied in the Mount of Olives neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud in Arab east Jerusalem. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to convince the settlers to leave the premises voluntarily. Palestinians warned the move could lead to more violence. Photo on right shows an Israeli policeman arresting a Palestinian after he had a dispute with his new neighbours over a parking place in Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood (see story on page 1) (AFP photos)



Syria praises Gulf support for its stance on peace process

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharrara praised the support of Gulf countries for Syria's peace process stance, in a telephone call with Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal, the official press said Tuesday.

Prince Faisal briefed Foreign Minister Sharrara on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting Monday in the eastern Saudi town of Abha, in which continued support for the peace process was linked to Israel's respect for the land-for-peace principle.

The official Tishrin daily said Prince Faisal also informed Mr. Sharrara about the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the foreign min-

isters of the GCC, which comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

At the meeting Sunday Ms. Albright tried to convince GCC states to attend the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Qatar in November, which Syria has already said it will boycott because of Israel's presence.

"Mr. Sharrara appreciated the stance of the Gulf countries, especially that of Saudi Arabia which supported Syria's stance," said Tishrin.

Arab countries are due to take a common position on whether to take part in the Qatar conference at an Arab League meeting on September 20.

Israeli court rejects Palestinian suspect's appeal against torture

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's supreme court has rejected a petition from a Palestinian detainee seeking a halt to alleged torture by his Israeli police interrogators, court officials said Tuesday.

A lawyer for Raji Mahmoud Salah asked the high court for a restraining order to prevent police from continuing torture he said he had been subject to since his arrest on suspicion of terrorist activities last month, the officials said.

At a closed door hearing, agents of the Shin Bet secret police said Mr. Salah was suspected of being a member of the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing and had knowledge about "imminent" new attacks by the group, Israel Radio reported.

Izzeddine Al Qassam claimed responsibility for two bombings in Jerusalem

over the past seven weeks, which left 20 Israelis dead and hundreds wounded and police say they have information the group is planning new attacks.

Shin Bet officials said only physical pressure, including sleep deprivation would force Mr. Salah to reveal information in his possession.

The radio said the agency obtained high court approval to chain Mr. Salah to a chair and place a bag over his head during interrogation.

Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights groups regularly protest Israeli mistreatment and torture of Palestinian detainees.

Israeli law permits "moderate physical pressure" of suspects believed to have information about imminent anti-Israeli attacks. Israeli government officials deny such physical pressure amounts to torture.

South Lebanon is Israel's Vietnam — Amal leader

TEHRAN (R) — Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri told Israel to get out of south Lebanon before it gets trapped, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Tuesday.

IRNA said Mr. Berri, who also heads the Amal Movement which with Hizbollah group is fighting to oust Israeli occupation troops from south Lebanon, met Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri in Tehran Monday evening.

"In his talks with Foreign Minister Kharrazi, he [Berri] said southern Lebanon is Israel's Vietnam and as time goes by the Zionist regime gets further entrapped," IRNA said. It said Mr. Berri likened

Israel's occupation of south Lebanon to the former U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

"Berri said the only solution is the simultaneous withdrawal of the Zionists [Israel] from southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights," IRNA said, referring to Syrian land occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Thirty-three Israeli soldiers and 47 Lebanese fighters have been killed so far this year in south Lebanon in clashes between Israeli troops and Lebanese groups fighting to end Israel's occupation of the area.

IRNA said Mr. Nateq-Nouri praised Lebanese guerrillas, who have turned south Lebanon into "a swamp for Tel Aviv."

Palestinian journalists to take part in DPI-organised training programme

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Ten Palestinian journalists from broadcast and print media will participate in a training programme organised by the U.N.'s Department of Public Information (DPI), from Sept. 15 to Nov. 7, DPI said in a press release.

During the programme, which is designed to strengthen the participants' professional capacity as information media personnel, the journalists

will attend briefings by officials of the U.N. and its specialised agencies, along with representatives of media organisations in the United States.

Participants will attend a one-week programme in Washington, D.C., participate in a skills training internship at CNN headquarters in Atlanta and attend two weeks of special classes at the Columbia University School of International and Public

Affairs. In addition, they will obtain on-the-job training by serving as temporary United Nations correspondents, covering United Nations meetings and activities on behalf of their media organisations.

This is the third programme being organised by DPI to assist the Palestinian people in building and strengthening their media capability.

Iranian president urges Qatar to cancel Doha economic summit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called on Qatar Tuesday to cancel the economic summit it is due to host in November, warning that it would create divisions in the Islamic world.

"The enemies of Islam are trying to create division among Muslim and Arab countries in a bid to strengthen the Zionists," he said at a meeting here with Lebanese parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri.

Repubic News Agency. "We hope that the government of Qatar would realise the existing situation and cancel the meeting. It would be in Qatar's interest."

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference, due to be held Nov. 16-18 in Doha, has proved to be controversial because Israel is one of the participants.

Syria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have said they will boycott the conference, holding Israel responsible for the deadlock

in the Middle East peace process.

Qatar has said the Doha conference should take place regardless of the peace process.

Arab countries are due to take a common position on whether to take part in the MENA conference at an Arab League meeting Sept. 20.

Mr. Khatami also blasted the "insulting" joint military manoeuvre between Israel, Turkey and the U.S., scheduled for November in the eastern Mediterranean.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:10.....Jonny Quest	
14:30.....Super Dave	
15:00.....Secrets of Treasure Island	
15:30.....Spell Binder	
16:00.....Monsters Today	
16:30.....Border Town	
17:00.....French Programmes	
19:00.....News in French	
19:30.....News Headlines	
19:35.....Neighbours	
20:00.....Soldier's Diary	
20:30.....Orphan Winfrey Show	
21:10.....Challenges	
22:00.....News in English	
22:30.....Land's End	
23:15.....American Gothic	
23:59.....End of T.X.	

PRAYER TIMES	
04:58.....Fajr	
06:15.....(Sunrise)Dhuha	
12:30.....Dhuhr	
16:00.....Asr	
18:45.....Maghreb	
20:03.....Isha	

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Armenian Catholic Church	
Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church	
Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church	
Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church	
Tel. 5516245	
Evangelical Lutheran Church	
Tel. 824328.	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation	
Tel. 688404	
The Latter-Day Saints	
Tel. 654932.	
Church of Nazarene	
Tel. 811295	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman	
Tel. 811295	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish	
Tel. 614190.	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	17/30
Aqaba	23/35
Deserts	16/34
Jordan Valley	22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Bassam Karadseh.....759200
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi.....894788
Dr. Salhan Daboul.....776751
Dr. Khalid Abdo.....657129
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....890280
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Lawzi.....989601
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre.....637111	
Civil Defence Department.....661111	
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341	
Civil Defence Emergency.....199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade.....617101	
Blood Bank.....775121	

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6
Aldhah Maternity, 642441/2
Jahal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 813615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport 08-53200

Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreeh 777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibu Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibu Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALLA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) infor-

mation department at the Queen Alla International Airport Tel. 108153200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)	
10:45 Lamaca, Damascus (RJ)	
10:45.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
17:30.....Madrid (RJ)	
17:40.....Toronto, Montreal (RJ)	
18:05.....Istanbul (RJ)	
18:05.....Paris (RJ)	
18:40.....Brussels, Geneva (RJ)	
19:10.....London, Berlin (RJ)	
19:10.....Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	
19:55.....Rome (RJ)	
00:15.....Beirut (RJ)	
01:05.....Cairo (RJ)	
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	

Other Flights	
09:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)	
09:30.....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)	
11:00.....Sanaa, Hudaidah (IY)	
11:50.....Kuwait (KU)	
12:00.....Jeddah (SV)	
13:10 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)	
13:15.....Cairo (MS)	

13:50.....Tel Aviv (LY)
14:30.....Tunis (TU)

Algerian, Jordanian foreign ministers conclude cooperation agreements, discuss common regional concerns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministers of Jordan and Algeria, Fayez Tarawneh and Ahmad Araf, respectively, Tuesday discussed the Middle East question and pan-Arab affairs prior to concluding three agreements on economic and other matters.

Dr. Tarawneh told Jordan Television that they reviewed issues of common concern, primarily the Middle East issue.

"We also discussed the question of re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries. Algeria has always played a vital role in this field, especially in the face of common challenges," the minister said.

"Questions on the minds of Algerians were discussed, and we found that Jordan and Algeria hold identical views. We also discussed issues such as the Euro-Mediterranean relationship, since they are important for our countries," the Algerian minister said.

Later at the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Araf and Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez signed two agreements on the prevention of dual taxation and cooperation in customs affairs and legislation.



Chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad, head of the Algerian Chambers of Industry and Trade Ali Habbour and President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalidun Abu Hassan Tuesday sign a protocol on economic cooperation (Petra photo)

A protocol, designed to stimulate industrial and commercial cooperation by helping Jordanian and Algerian businesspeople launch joint projects, was signed by Haidar Murad, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, and Khalidun

Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, along with Ali Habbour, head of the Algerian Chambers of Industry and Trade. Meanwhile, the Algerian minister of higher education and scientific research, together with his Jordanian counterpart Munther Masri,

Tuesday visited the University of Jordan and met President Fawzi Gharaibeh and other university officials.

They reviewed areas from which Algerian institutions could benefit, including translation and Arabisation of scientific books and foreign language instruction.

Foreign minister to attend Arab League meetings in Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh will travel to Cairo Friday on a two-day visit to lead the Jordanian delegation in the 108th meeting of the Arab League Council, which starts Saturday at the foreign ministers' level.

According to the Arab League, the foreign ministers will discuss 40 items, with issues in the Middle East at the top of the agenda.

The ministers are expected to take a unified stand on these issues, and a number of them will submit detailed reports on their own countries' assessments of the peace process in the

light of Israel's intransigent stand, according to an Arab League statement.

Also on the agenda are such issues as the creation of an Arab higher court of justice, a mechanism for settling disputes among Arab countries, the situation in Jerusalem, Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal, continued Israeli occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territories, and the question of Lebanese citizens jailed in Israel.

Meanwhile, Minister of Industry and Trade and Supply Hani Mulki left for Cairo Tuesday to take part in the Arab League's Economic and Social Council,

which opens today.

The council is expected to discuss a mechanism to create an Arab free-trade zone as of Dec. 1, 1997.

Dr. Mulki said meetings were held recently with a number of Israeli officials on facilitating trade between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz reported that Dr. Mulki met Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and discussed a free-trade area agreement, a double taxation agreement, and an investment protection agreement between the two countries.

The paper quoted the two

ministers as saying the new agreement should replace the current temporary arrangements governing trade between Israel and Jordan, which are due to expire in October 1998.

According to the report, Dr. Mulki agreed to increase the quota of Jordanian cement exports to Israel.

The two ministers discussed setting up joint industrial areas, which would enable Jordanian exporters to gain duty-free access to American markets by taking advantage of Israel's free-trade agreement with the U.S., Ha'aretz report stated.

Council meeting reviews outcome of Albright visit, ministry projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers, meeting in a regular session Tuesday, reviewed the outcome of a visit to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and projects by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, among other issues.

After the Cabinet meeting, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said Mrs. Albright came to the region with specific ideas on security for both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

"Mrs. Albright discussed halting all steps that are taken unilaterally, which means Jewish settlements,

and stressed the need for implementing international agreements to be conducted simultaneously with the Israeli-Palestinian final-status negotiations," according to Dr. Mutawi.

He said the U.S. secretary also briefed the leaders of the region about her mission to re-activate the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

A decision by both parties to send delegations to Washington for talks represents a very positive development and proves that matters are going in the right direction, he explained.

Dr. Mutawi said the

Palestinian-Israeli track is at a dangerous stage and it has become necessary to revive the negotiations, which is what Mrs. Albright achieved during her visit.

The Cabinet approved a number of decisions, including consent for Jordan's participation in the Babylon International Cultural Festival in Iraq. The Ministry of Culture will send the national folklore troupe to the festival, which begins Sept. 23 and ends Oct. 1, according to Dr. Mutawi.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi reported to the Cabinet his ministry's

plans for promoting the services of mosques, training imams (mosque preachers), and the renovating and restoring the shrines where companions of the Prophet Muhammad are buried in Jordan.

Dr. Abbadi also reported on the ministry's role in caring for the awqaf and holy places in Arab East Jerusalem and religious schools there, and a five-year plan for the development of the zakat fund (fund for the poor), which is due to start next year.

He said the plan entails a number of projects benefiting the unemployed.

Conference assessing implementation of U.N. disabled-rights legislation to open Thursday

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian-Swedish Medical Association (JSMA), in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, is opening a two-day pan-Arab symposium Thursday to assess the implementation in Arab states of United Nations standard rules for equal opportunities for the disabled.

"The JSMA felt that it was time for Jordan and other Arab states to meet and exchange ideas on equal opportunities for the disabled," JSMA President HRH Prince Ra'd Bin Zaid told the Jordan Times.

Speakers include Bengt Lindqvist, Sweden's former Minister of Social Development and current president of JSMA in Sweden, who himself is blind and a U.N.

expert in standard rules governing equal opportunities for the disabled.

Participants will form working groups to answer and compare a questionnaire focusing on ten U.N. articles for equal opportunities, and discuss the articles applied in their countries.

"Mr. Lindqvist will listen to the various working groups and hopefully guide us in developing certain schemes on which we are embarking," Prince Ra'd said.

In 1993 the Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons was passed. Prince Ra'd admitted that Jordan has been "trying to do its best [in applying U.N. standard rules] but it has not been easy."

According to this law, a disabled person is "any person with a permanent, partial or total impairment in

any of his senses or physical, psychological, or mental abilities to the extent that the ability to learn, to be rehabilitated, or to work is limited in a way which renders him/her short of fulfilling his/her normal daily requirements in circumstances similar to those of able-bodied persons."

Bengt Lagerkvist, an expert in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), will speak to participants about different approaches in rehabilitation.

Dr. Lagerkvist supervised the implementation of a CBR project in the Mafrq governorate, which was considered a pioneering project and will be discussed at the meeting, said Prince Ra'd.

Another topic on the agenda is the education of the disabled. Article 4 of

the Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons states that "the Ministry of Education shall provide primary and all forms of secondary education for disabled persons as commensurate with their capabilities."

Prince Ra'd confirmed that legislation pertaining to the disabled provides rights equal to any able citizen.

He stressed that the success of such endeavours depends largely on community acceptance.

He remains optimistic, since "with each passing year, more opportunities are being given."

Over 150 participants from Arab ministries of social affairs and their equivalents and non-governmental organisations are taking part in this conference.

Princess Basma inspects volunteer centres in south

MA'AN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday inspected the Queen Alia Fund for Voluntary Work Centres in Sadaqah and Mureighah in the southern region.

Princess Basma called for an active role by local communities, as well as non-governmental organisations, in line with Jordan's intention to implement decentralisation.

"We should intensify

individual and collective projects in the Sadaqah and Mureighah areas and give women suitable opportunities to serve their community and country," the Princess said.

Princess Basma was accompanied by the president of the Japanese society for developing local communities (NICCO) and his wife.

NICCO, in its first oper-

ation in Jordan, funded a project for raising sheep in the Sadaqah and Mureighah areas and will launch others in Ghor Safi, Ghor Mazraah and Ghor Haditheh.

NICCO is a non-governmental organisation which has offered development and relief aid to several Asian countries, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Thailand.

Expert testimony refutes confession in father's trial

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Tuesday heard the testimony of a criminal lab expert in the case of a 34-year-old father accused of killing his two children, aged six and eight, in September 1996.

Court witness Colonel Marouk Hababbeh of the police department criminal lab testified that the percentage of cyanide salts detected in the children's blood was 60 milligrammes per litre, not the 600 to 650 milligrammes per litre as a prosecution witness testified earlier.

In April, a defence expert witness contended that for the children to have such a high concentration of cyanide in their blood, each would have had to consume at least three large cyanide pills.

The defence expert's testimony contradicts Mr. Masri's confession to police that he proffered one cyanide pill to each child.

Mazen Masri reportedly confessed to the authorities on Sept. 25, 1996 that he poisoned his two children by administering two cyanide pills before leaving for work on the morning of Sept. 11.

In January of this year, Mr. Masri, who pleaded not guilty, retracted his previous confessions, claiming that he was "subjected to psychological pressure by police, who threatened to interrogate my wife and mother instead of myself."

At the beginning of the court session, Judge Mahmoud Ajameh, presiding for the first time, banned the press from reporting the case and threatened to expel reporters if they took notes.

The parents of the defendant were not allowed to attend the public court session yesterday.

"My wife and I were prevented from entering the court room by the security without being given any reason," Hani Masri, the father of the defendant said.

The court tribunal adjourned the session to Sept. 25 to hear more lab experts, and at the same time instructed Col. Hababbeh to present three reports that were conducted by the criminal lab to detect the cyanide in the children's blood.

March highlighting smoking dangers to be held Friday

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Drawing society's attention to the danger of smoking-related cancer is the primary objective of a Sept. 19 nationwide march, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and organised by the Jordan Cancer Society (JCS) and the Jordanian Society for Smoking Prevention.

The march is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. from Sport City, where tickets will be sold for JD1.5, organisers said.

The march's course will include Wafiq Tel (Gardens) Street, Waha Circle, University Road and will end at the starting point in Sport City, according to Muhammad Shreim, president of the Jordanian Society for Smoking Prevention.

Several stations along the route will provide free juice and pastries for participants, Dr. Shreim said.

The Arabic Military Music Orchestra will precede the participants, as a contribution

to the event, he added.

Studies have shown that almost 90 per cent of all cancer cases are smoking-related, from which three million people die annually, Raghib Kamal, president of the Jordanian Cancer Society related.

"Since cancer treatment is expensive, and many patients are underprivileged, financial donations help the success of the event by providing treatment to those in need and clearly express humanitarian and national duty," he added.

Cancer is considered the most dangerous disease of our time, and therefore, spreading awareness might save lives, expenses and time, he explained.

The death toll from tobacco will increase from three million to ten million per annum in the coming two decades, unless urgent action is taken to reduce tobacco consumption now, Professor Lu Rusan, the secretary general of the world conference on tobacco and smoking said last month in Beijing.

In May, the Ministry of

Health organised a nationwide campaign against smoking under the theme "Together towards a World Free of Smoking," which is a slogan set by the World Health Association (WHO).

The campaign was carried out in cooperation with the ministries of education and awqaf and Islamic affairs, as well as schools and community colleges and through the distribution of publications and posters, Ashraf Kurdi, minister of health said.

He added that unless the campaigns against smoking are backed by a political decision and national statement warning people of the dangers of smoking, the job would be very tough.

According to Dr. Shreim, smoking is still not banned in public places in most developing countries.

In the Kingdom, smoking-related health problems cost society an estimated JD500 million annually, 76 per cent of which must be covered by the government, Dr. Shreim concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM
* Children's film "Famous Fred the Adventures of Spot" at the British Council, Jabal Amman, at 5:00 p.m.

ART TALK
* A 15-minute art talk by Syrian artist Fateh Moudarres at Amman Bookshop, Jabal Amman, Third Circle, at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Works by Syrian artist Dr. Fateh Moudarres at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25

(Tel. 5537598).
* Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until Sept. 23.

* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arah Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).

* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gar-

dens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).
* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactivite" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

* Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.

Correction

The name of the Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda was misspelled in the Sunday, Sept. 14 edition. The Jordan Times regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

Norway wakes with hangover after dumping government

OSLO (R) — Norway awoke with a hangover Tuesday after dumping Labour Party Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland and opening the door to months of political wrangling.

Financial markets in Norway, which operate with oil-backed fundamentals that make the economy one of the strongest in Europe, did not like what they read in the newspapers, marking down the crown and stocks and pushing up interest rates.

Market players said, however, that Norway's wealth was so well underpinned that government troubles were unlikely to have any lasting effect on markets.

The total share index fell 0.6 per cent to 1,283.38 but the crown clawed back losses to stand at 4.1355/85 by 0930 GMT after falling to a near three-week low of 4.1570 in early trade.

S-E Banken Norway chief economist Oeystein Stephansen said the election result would weaken the crown but did not see any long-term fall. "The crown will still be backed by a solid foreign trade surplus."

Labour's share of the vote only slipped by less than two percentage points and they lost just two seats, but Mr. Jagland had hacked himself into a corner by insisting the party must match the 36.9 per cent it won at the last poll in 1993.

In the election, Labour's share of the vote only slipped by "hoist by his own petard," ran the headline in the conservative daily

Afterposten Tuesday. Labour will have 65 of the 165 seats in parliament, according to figures published when 95 per cent of the vote had been counted.

Apart from Labour's defeat, Norway's traditional political calm was shattered by the stunning success of the far-right Progress Party, which won 15.3 per cent of the vote and 25 seats in parliament.

The Progress Party, a neo-Thatcherite grouping led by charismatic former businessman Carl Hagen, gathered the protest votes of Norwegians who feel their massive oil wealth is being poured into the wrong pockets.

The Labour government has launched a petroleum fund to mop up the billions

of oil dollars flooding into Norway's economy, but opinion polls showed Norwegians felt their health and welfare services and schools were suffering.

The next prime minister of Norway looks set to be Kjell Magne Bondevik, a former priest and ex-foreign minister who is the head of a three-party centrist coalition that can garner 42 seats.

"I see no reason why I shouldn't be Norway's new prime minister but I have to wait to see if I'm asked," he said.

Mr. Bondevik began the prickly process of trying to put together a coalition government Tuesday, although he has a breathing space until mid-October as Mr. Jagland pledged to present the annual budget before quitting. The budget is due on Oct. 13.

Mr. Bondevik, a former priest and foreign minister, said he would be careful in putting together a coalition that is likely only to have around 45 seats in the 165-seat parliament.

"We don't see any reason for a government to commit suicide in its policy declarations," he said.

Many analysts say Mr. Bondevik's coalition will be too fragile to last through the harsh Norwegian political winter and that it will be snuffed out by the Labour Party or by conservative groups.

Mr. Bondevik said he would seek cross-party support for his policies and there were even reports he would seek to patch up differences with the Conservative Party and form a much more powerful four-party coalition.

Such a coalition would be a repeat of one that ruled for several years in the 1980s.



Leader of Norway's far-right Progress Party Carl Hagen (right) arrives with his wife at an election party. The Progress Party, which demanded more spending on hospitals and pensions, seemed likely to be the second biggest party after attacking Labour policies of setting aside some of Norway's huge North Sea oil wealth for the future. (Renter photo)



The Christian Party's prime ministerial candidate Kjell Magne Bondevik (left) and the party's leader Valgerd Svarstad Haugland (right) celebrate as they watch the first results announced in the Norwegian elections. Partial results predict that Bondevik's party will win 13.9 per cent of the votes, and that if current Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland resigns, Bondevik would be his most likely successor. (Renter photo)

Cambodian parliament rejects cabinet changes

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Cambodian parliament Tuesday rejected the proposed sacking of four cabinet ministers loyal to deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Political analysts said the surprise rejection of the cabinet changes would be an embarrassment for Premier Hun Sen, who had backed the appointments.

But the vote was not necessarily a demonstration of support for the ousted prince, analysts said.

Mr. Hun Sen, who toppled Mr. Ranariddh in early July, said Tuesday's vote in the national assembly was an illustration of democracy and the sovereignty of the Cambodian parliament.

"This shows the effectiveness and democracy of our parliament," Mr. Hun Sen told reporters after the vote. "The assembly has full sovereignty and there is no threat or intimidation."

Only 67 members of parliament out of the 97 present Tuesday voted in favour of the proposed cabinet change. Eighty votes were needed for the proposal to pass.

Of the remainder, 14 voted against the proposed changes, seven abstained and there were nine spoiled ballots, assembly officials said. The vote was by secret ballot.

Under the proposed cabinet change four ministers from Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC Party, living abroad in self-imposed exile since shortly after the prince's ouster on July 6, would have been replaced by party members who remained in the country and agreed to work with Mr. Hun Sen.

Nine new secretaries of state would also have been appointed if the proposal had been approved, assembly officials said. A proposal to appoint three new deputy prime ministers was dropped earlier, the officials said.

Political analysts suggested the rejection of the proposed changes was more a result of rivalry between two factions of the prince's FUNCINPEC party remaining in the country than a show of support for Prince

Ranariddh. "I don't think it's a demonstration of support for the prince," said one political analyst. "People are more concerned about their own power interests rather than others'."

Several members of a FUNCINPEC faction which rebelled against Prince Ranariddh and broke with him in April were slated to get cabinet jobs in the proposed reshuffle, to the possible annoyance of the other FUNCINPEC faction, analysts said.

"I would say this is embarrassing for Mr. Hun Sen, we thought it would be a rubber stamp, but I think it's basically FUNCINPEC who objected," one diplomat said.

"They were unhappy that the rebels were getting the jobs. The goodies were being given more to one side than the other," he said. "There's lots of resentment, that was obvious."

Political analysts said there might also have been some opposition to the proposed changes from within Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

There has been speculation about disagreement within the CPP for some time and there was a possibility some party members saw disadvantages in the proposed cabinet changes, analysts said.

"Maybe this is one way of blocking the consolidation of power by Mr. Hun Sen," said another analyst. "Maybe some people don't want it so they don't vote for it."

Mr. Hun Sen said members of parliament opposed to one or two of the changes had voted against the whole list and new votes would be held after he and a government delegation returned from the U.N. General Assembly session in New York later this month.

"We will vote again ... one by one, not in a group like this time," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh shared power in a coalition after U.N.-run elections in 1993. After toppling the prince, Mr. Hun Sen said he wanted to maintain the coalition with the prince's FUNCINPEC Party in the run-up to an election in May.

U.S. F-18 Hornet crashes off North Carolina

WASHINGTON (R) — A Marine Corps F/A-18D Hornet fighter jet crashed into a swamp near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina around 8:30 p.m. EDT Monday (0030 GMT Tuesday) during a routine night bombing exercise, the U.S. Marine Corps said.

A spokesman said it was uncertain whether the two pilots aboard were able to eject before the crash, the fourth serious accident involving U.S. military aircraft in barely two days.

The \$28 million Hornet fighter was stationed with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 224 from Beaufort, South Carolina, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

Military and Coast Guard search and rescue helicopters and military police were at the site of the crash, which occurred in a marshy area near Cedar Island at a bombing range on Pamlico Sound.

Representatives of the U.S. Marine Corps were to arrive at the crash site early Tuesday to begin investigating the accident, said a spokesman at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

No information on the cause of the crash was immediately available, and Marine Corps officials declined to say whether wreckage from the plane had been found.

The 19 Metres F/A-18D Hornet, one of 60 owned and operated by the U.S. military, is manufactured by McDonnell Douglas and can be used to attack and destroy surface targets during daytime or nighttime raids and under all weather conditions.

The two-seater fighter was one of three Hornets from the South Carolina base that was practicing routine bombing at the range.

The F-18 crash was the latest in a spate of U.S. military air accidents, including the crash of an air force F-117 stealth fighter at an air show near Baltimore and a navy F-18 fighter in Oman, both Sunday.

Military officials are also still searching for the wreckage of an air force C-141 cargo jet, with nine crew aboard, which was missing off the coast of Namibia after a suspected mid-air collision with a German Air Force plane carrying 24 people.

Diana driver's family seeks police protection at funeral

RENNES (AFP) — The family of Henri Paul, the driver of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales was killed, pleaded for extra police protection when he is buried Saturday in his native town of Lorient, western France.

Family spokesman Dominique Melo said Tuesday, "We all fear an individual outburst by someone for example wanting to avenge Diana, or a journalist misbehaving himself."

Mr. Melo, a friend of Paul for 25 years, told AFP that the 40 police officers to be deployed at the funeral were "really not enough. We are asking for more police."

Mr. Melo said the family would soon release a communiqué in response to "journalistic pressure."

Many journalists, notably Britons, are expected in the Brittany port of Lorient where the funeral service will be held at the church of Sainte-Therese De Keriado.

Asked about his friend's alleged fondness for drinking, Mr. Melo said "Obviously he had a high tolerance for alcohol. We sometimes used to go for a

drive after drinking heavily over a meal. It was always Henri Paul who did the driving, without any problem."

Mr. Melo refused to comment on a report in the London Times Tuesday alleging that Paul had drunk for six hours in different bars just before the accident on Aug. 31.

On Monday the Central Paris Undertakers' Office said that Paul, the 41-year-old deputy security chief of the Ritz Hotel in Paris, will be buried rather than cremated, as his family had wanted.

Informed sources said the family's lawyers had persuaded them to have the body buried, in case they wanted to request new tests on it.

The family will be able to have his body cremated at a later date if they so wish, the sources said.

Paul was found to be under the influence of a cocktail of drink and prescribed medicine when he crashed the Mercedes S-280 car carrying Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed in a road tunnel in Paris on Aug. 31.

His funeral was postponed

after judicial officials ordered further tests to confirm initial specimens showing he had more than three times the French legal alcohol limit in his blood.

Traces of an anti-depressant medicine and drugs used to treat the effects of alcoholism were also found in subsequent tests.

Examining magistrates Hervé Stephan and Marie-Christine Devidal gave permission for Paul's body to be disposed of Friday, after three sets of tests had been carried out on it.

It was unclear when the body will be transported from the Paris Central Morgue, where it has lain since Paul was killed instantly in the crash in the Alma Bridge Underpass next to the Seine.

A notice of intention to hold a funeral will be published in the regional daily Ouest France Thursday, the Central Undertakers' Office said.

Paul's family and friends have denied that he was alcoholic or depressive. They have taken civil legal action parallel to the criminal investigation into the crash.

Mob riots break out in Indonesia after young girl hacked to death

JAKARTA (R) — A mob of Indonesians stoned shops owned by ethnic Chinese and burned cars in the capital of south Sulawesi province Tuesday after a young girl was hacked to death, police said.

A spokeswoman said a Chinese person killed a nine-year-old girl from the local Bugis people with a machete after an incident in the provincial capital Ujung Pandang.

"The nine-year-old girl was hacked to death with a machete," she said. "All the Chinese shops in the city were stoned and five cars have already been

torched."

She said the reason for the attack on the child was not immediately clear and could not comment further.

Local residents said the attacker was a mentally unstable man.

Residents said the child was killed Monday night and rioting started early Tuesday.

"They said troops and riot police were in the streets of the port city but a mob of more than 400 people was stoning shops, including the local Raddison hotel, around midday (0400 GMT)."

At least one building in the

Chinese district was on fire, they added.

An ethnic Chinese man in the area said by telephone the situation appeared calm after troops and police took to the streets, although he and his family were still too scared to leave their home and see the extent of the damage.

Callers to the city police headquarters and central city police station could hear blaring sirens in the background around 1:30 p.m. (0530 GMT).

Police declined to comment. Mainly Muslim Indonesia has been hit by a number of ethnic and religious riots since late last year.

Haze hits hazardous levels in Kuala Lumpur for 2nd day

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Air pollution reached hazardous levels for the second straight day in Malaysia Tuesday as Indonesia's president apologised for forest fires blamed for haze choking nearby countries.

Rainfall helped clear some of the haze in Malaysia but the air pollutant index in the capital remained at "very unhealthy" levels.

The index breached the 300 level — the hazardous point — in Gombak, a suburb of Kuala Lumpur, but the worst reading of 344 was recorded in Nilai, a town in Negeri Sembilan state south of here.

President Suharto, addressing a meeting of South East Asian environment ministers in Jakarta, apologised for forest fires in Indonesia and the smoke that is disturbing neighbouring

neighbouring countries who have been disturbed by the fires in our territory, Indonesia offers its most sincere apologies," Mr. Suharto said in a speech to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting.

He said Indonesia was doing its utmost to "prevent and overcome" the fires but "the sheer vastness of our bushes and forests, and the prolonged drought, has created insurmountable obstacles in the efforts to prevent and get the fires under control."

In Malaysia, press reports said such items as air purifiers, ionisers and surgical masks to block out the haze were running out of supply.

Frustrated Malaysians have called the press to say they were disappointed with the government action plan and called for more effective measures such as helping Indonesia to put its forest

fires.

The Malaysian opposition and activists have also slammed the government for alleged inefficiency in handling the situation and demanded that Indonesia take responsibility.

Activists said the crisis had cast doubts on the country's entire development model, saying there were not enough efforts to safeguard the environment against Malaysia's rapid industrialisation.

An Environment Department official told AFP the haze was likely to deteriorate over the next few days as the wind direction was not favourable to the country.

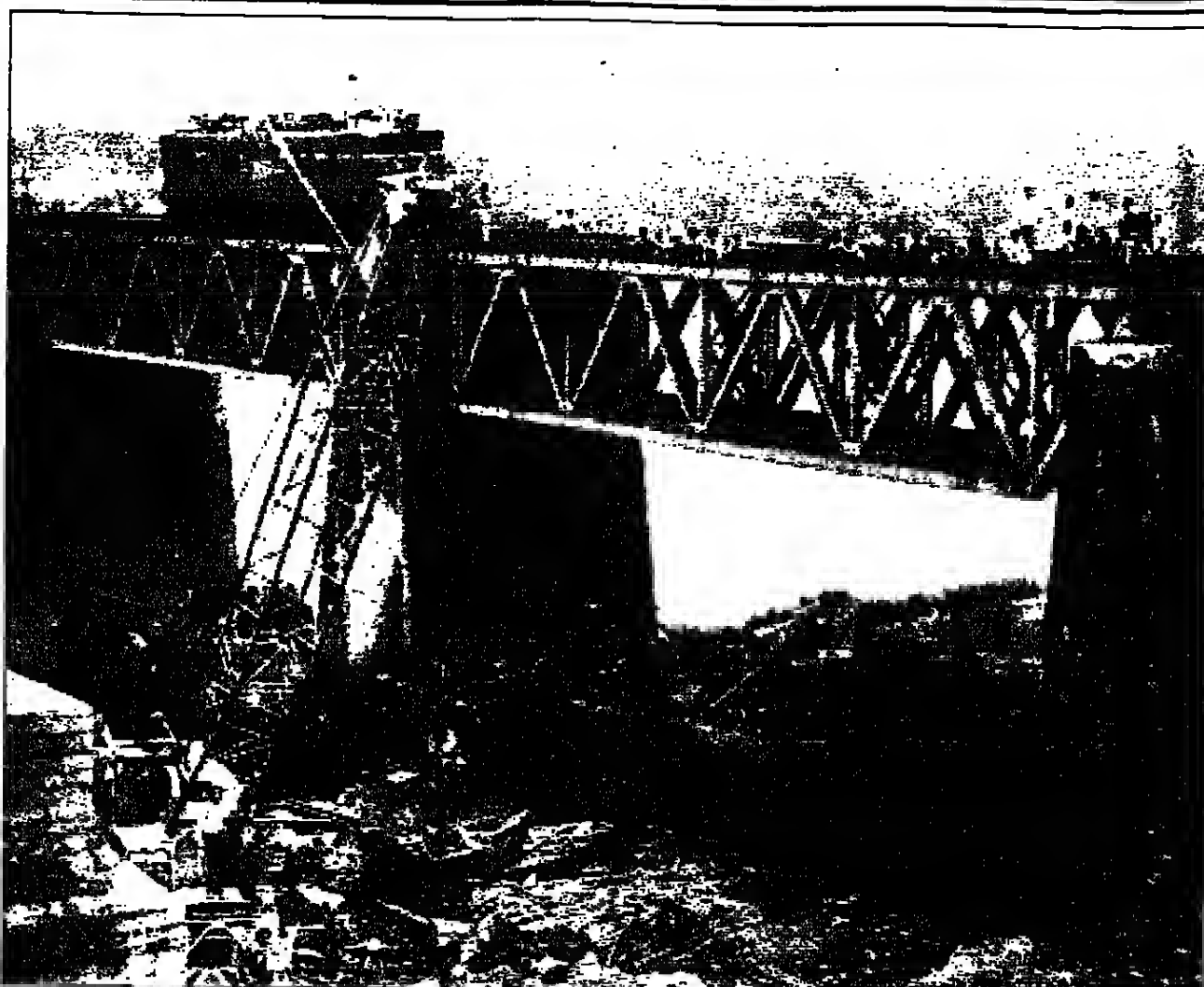
The government, which has declared the haze a national disaster, had earlier sought help from France and Canada, which have experience in putting out forest fires, to combat the haze.

Authorities also proposed a ban on open burning, limit construction activity and earthworks, reduce traffic in the capital and stop industrial emissions.

Education Minister Najib Tun Razak was reported as saying that a decision would be made Wednesday on proposals to temporarily close schools, warning that such a move would have "massive implications" like rescheduling of exams.

The government had earlier said it would close schools only when the index reaches 400 and declare a state of emergency if it touches 500.

Efforts to extinguish the Indonesian fires, blamed largely on plantation and timber companies using slash-and-burn methods to clear their lands quickly, have been complicated by the drought currently facing Indonesia, said to be the worst in almost 50 years.



Cranes remove wreckage of a passenger train in the central Indian town of Champa Tuesday. At least 81 people were killed and 236 injured when a passenger train fell into the dry riverbed of the Hansdev River in India's Madhya Pradesh state Sunday (Reuter photo)

Death toll in India train disaster rises to 81

BHOPAL (R) — The death toll in a train accident at the weekend in central India has risen to 81, police said Tuesday.

Railway officials said the accident could have been caused by broken tracks.

"The death toll so far is 81. The number of injured is 236," Satpal Singh, inspector-general of police in the Bilaspur district of the state of Madhya Pradesh, said.

The accident occurred Sunday near Champa town when five carriages of a train plunged from a bridge onto the dry riverbed of the Hansdev River. The town is around 800 kilometres from the state capital Bhopal.

"The death toll is not expected to go up," Mr. Singh said, adding that overwhelming support from citizens near the disaster site helped relief workers minimise casualties from the accident.

Unionists meet on N. Ireland talks mediation

BELFAST (R) — British and Irish government officials tried again Tuesday to coax reluctant unionist leaders to join their arch-foes Sinn Féin at historic Northern Ireland peace talks.

"We are continuing shuttle diplomacy," said one British official as leaders of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the key voice of a Protestant majority which wants to stay British, gathered in Belfast.

UUP leaders said that they wanted to take part in the negotiations, which opened Monday with all five unionist tribes empty, but needed assurances from the two governments on a variety of issues.

There was no immediate indication when the UUP, Northern Ireland's biggest political party, might join the negotiations.

While its officials gathered at party headquarters, other parties to the talks were gathering for bilateral discussions at Stormont Castle buildings on the other side of Belfast for a plenary session in mid-afternoon.

But UUP officials said that if they received satisfactory assurances they would sit down with Sinn Féin, which seeks to end Northern Ireland's British status and join it with the Irish Republic.

"We are not afraid to take Sinn Féin on, that is not our concern," said UUP parliamentary spokesman Jeffrey Donaldson.

"We are certainly not going to allow Sinn Féin or anyone else to drive unionists out of this process."

The UUP wants the talks' agenda to reflect its key concerns that Sinn Féin's IRA guerrilla allies — as well as armed Protestant extremists — agree to disarm during the talks, rather than at the end when any agreement is reached.

British and Irish government ministers, who have been working on round-table peace talks since 1993, put a brave face

Monday's boycott by the UUP.

"I think they (Unionists) will eventually come into the process. I sincerely hope they will. It is what the people of Northern Ireland want. It is the way forward," Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam said.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, said the talks opened up the "possibility of the beginning of the end of conflict in this island...the real historic day will be when we come to agreement."

"We want all parties to be involved in these talks and we are prepared to allow some time, some space to bring unionists into the process," he said.

Mr. Mowlam said the two governments were working on a formula of words which would satisfy unionists on a range of concerns including the surrender of IRA arms and the right of Northern Ireland people to decide their destiny.

George Mitchell, a former U.S. Senator who chairs the negotiations, refused to be downbeat about the failure of the unionists to turn up Monday for what was billed as a new chapter in Ireland's troubled history.

"I am impressed with the manner in which all the participants are acting in a constructive and responsible way, trying very hard to move this process forward," he told reporters.

Sinn Féin and the IRA believe that Northern Ireland is an illegal British colony and that it would be united with Ireland if the people of the entire island were allowed a free vote on the province's future.

But Britain and Ireland say Northern Ireland's 1.5 million people alone will decide if the province should change status, effectively locking it into a British orbit until demography and political culture change.

U.S. warns of sanctions if Bosnia election thwarted

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, aiming to ensure Bosnia's successful first post-war municipal elections do not unravel, threatened sanctions against any Croat, Muslim or Serb who acted to thwart the results.

"We see that our efforts to accelerate implementation (of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords) in a robust and concerted way across the board, applying carrots and sticks, incentives and sanctions, is starting to pay off," State Department deputy spokesman James Foley told reporters.

Making sure the results of the elections held last weekend are implemented may be an even tougher task than holding the polls themselves and hence "tough sanctions ... will indeed be

implemented in event of non-compliance," he said.

A National Elections Results Implementation Commission established by the international community is expected to begin taking decisions within one month related to the elections, he said.

The commission and its regional subsidiaries will examine on a case-by-case basis the performance of municipalities around Bosnia in implementing the election results.

The threatened sanctions include denial of reconstruction aid to municipalities that do not enforce election results and denial of travel privileges for officials who thwart the results, Mr. Foley said.

Also, officials elected in last weekend's election will

be denied office if they fail to comply with the results, he said. Officials are most concerned about towns where the ethnic balances are most sensitive.

"We are reaching a critical point in our stepped up efforts to achieve Dayton implementation ... we are fully determined to make full use of the tools available to the international community to see that the aims of Dayton are brought to fruition," he said.

Mr. Foley said the elections, a crucial step toward democracy and a single-state in Bosnia, exceeded the international community's expectations.

"We see a lot of evidence that the trends in favour of Dayton implementation on the rise and that's what we are going to concentrate

on," he added.

In Brussels, Carlos Westendorp, head of the international community's high representative to Bosnia, said Monday it would be "absolutely unthinkable" to have no international military presence in the region next year, unless the situation there improved dramatically.

In Sarajevo on Sunday, Robert Frowick, head of the Bosnia mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said that it was absolutely essential the international community stay indefinitely in Bosnia.

But Mr. Foley said the U.S. still intends that the NATO-led Stabilisation Force mission end next June as planned.

6 killed in Kashmir battle

JAMMU (R) — Two Indian Army officers and four Kashmiri guerrillas were killed near the Pakistan border in a second gunbattle this week ahead of crucial talks between the two countries, police said Tuesday.

Police said five civilians were wounded in cross-fire in the shootout Monday at Thana-Mandi in Rajouri district, 150 kilometres from Jammu, winter capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

On Sunday night, a junior Indian Army officer, two soldiers and three guerrillas were killed in a six-hour gunbattle at Pethsir, a village near the apple-rich Sopore town, some 50 kilometres from the state's summer capital, Srinagar.

New Delhi, which rules two-thirds of the state, has rejected Islamabad's claim over the region. Pakistan, which rules one-third of Jammu and Kashmir, says the dispute is the core issue in bilateral relations.

"In yesterday's incident one major and a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer) were killed on the spot when militants launched their sudden assault," A.R. Khan, a senior police official, said.

"In the retaliatory firing, four militants were also killed," he said.

At least 500,000 died in North Korea famine, report says

WASHINGTON (R) — As many as two million North Koreans may have starved to death in that nation's famine, CNN international reported Tuesday.

"At least half a million people have died, probably closer to one to two million," Andrew Natsios, a vice president for World Vision, a Christian aid group, told CNN.

The organisation based its estimate on surveys taken in July on the Chinese side of the North Korean border. About 400 people were interviewed, with many

telling stories of starvation, but only 33 agreed to complete a World Vision questionnaire, CNN reported from New York.

"Nineteen of them are North Koreans who have escaped from their home villages into China searching for food, and 14 of them are ethnic Korean Chinese — Chinese citizens — who've gone in to visit their relatives with food and then come back," according to CNN.

Because of answers from people who came from small villages, who knew exactly how many people in

their villages had died of starvation, World Vision estimated that 15 per cent of those villages died since January.

"If this data is country-wide, then we're facing one of the terrible famines of this century," Mr. Natsios told CNN.

The North Korean United Nations mission in New York said there was no spokesman available to comment on World Vision's figures. U.N.s officials told CNN that nobody outside North Korea can confirm the estimates.

34 killed in Sri Lankan fighting

COLOMBO (R) — At least 34 people have been killed in heavy fighting between government troops and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in northern Sri Lanka, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

Twelve soldiers were killed Monday when the rebels fired mortar bombs and machine guns at troops northeast of Puliyanakulam town, the ministry said in a statement.

Troops retaliated using artillery and mortars, causing heavy casualties among the rebels. They estimated that at least 20 guerrillas were killed and a large number wounded during the confrontation, the statement said.

It said that 42 soldiers were also wounded in the

fighting at Puliyanakulam.

An LTTE statement issued Monday said the rebels had handed over 17 bodies of soldiers, killed near Puliyanakulam in recent fighting, to the Red Cross Sunday.

The statement from the rebels' London office did not give details of Monday's fighting.

In a separate incident west of Puliyanakulam town, troops killed two rebels Monday, the statement added.

Heavy fighting has been reported in recent days near Puliyanakulam, which lies north of government-held Vavuniya and is on the highway to northern Jaffna peninsula which the military has been trying to capture in a four-month campaign.

Vavuniya lies 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war that began in 1983.

The LTTE says the toll is higher.

Meanwhile, torrential rains in Sri Lanka caused flash floods and mud slips that left at least three people dead and several injured Tuesday, the Automobile Association (AA) said.

The three deaths were reported in the low-lying area of Awissawella, about 60 kilometres north-east of the capital Colombo, the AA said adding rescue services were sent to the area.

Search resumes for 33 missing in collision off Namibia

WINDHOEK (R) — A major search and rescue mission resumed at daybreak Tuesday for 33 missing German and American military personnel whose planes apparently collided in mid-air off the coast of Namibia.

A South African Hercules transport aircraft took off from Windhoek shortly after dawn to overfly the huge search area and report back on weather conditions ahead of a planned exhaustive search of the ocean about 100 miles off-shore by German and United States Air Force planes.

Hopes of finding survivors of the accident, which occurred Saturday between a U.S. Air Force's C-141 Starlifter and a German Luftwaffe Tupolev 154 transport plane, grew dimmer as time passed.

Wreckage apparently from the German plane was

picked up by a Namibian fisheries patrol vessel Monday off a wilderness stretch of Namibia's 1,600 kilometres South Atlantic coastline. A search plane heard a weak radio distress signal but the South African Air Force said it was too faint to track.

Close to 20 aircraft and a total of 265 people from South Africa, Germany, the United States and France will have joined the operation by Tuesday.

In Bonn, the German Defence Ministry said one unidentified body, believed to have come from the German plane, had been found.

The South African Air Force said one of its planes would continue flying low over the search area in hopes that its noise might attract survivors.

The wreckage found

Monday included three aircraft seats and part of a fourth seat. Oil slicks and fuel slicks were also spotted.

The cause of the apparent crash was not immediately clear.

Officials in Windhoek said a breakdown in air traffic control communications may have led to the collision.

But they cautioned it was too soon to know for sure whether Africa's notoriously poor air traffic control operations played a role in the freak accident.

Namibia's civil aviation directorate said its air traffic control had received no flight plans of the German aircraft, which had entered Namibian airspace from Niamey in Niger on a flight to Cape Town.

But German Air Transport Command Chief General

Gerhard Back, who flew into Windhoek Monday to head his country's biggest peacetime search and rescue mission, said the German flight plan had been filed and acknowledged.

Asked about the apparent contradictions, back said without elaborating that there may have been "a misunderstanding."

A full board of inquiry is expected to start within the next few days. Officials have said it is not yet possible to say whether the "Black Box" flight recorder can be recovered from a depth of 1,000 metres.

Officials also said the waters off Namibia were not all that cold so it was not impossible that people could survive provided that they had survived the apparent mid-air collision.

Philippine Catholic Church warns of dictatorship

MANILA (AFP) — The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines warned Tuesday that aides of President Fidel Ramos were seeking to impose a dictatorship.

The archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, released a statement urging Filipinos to take to the streets this Saturday to protest at planned changes to the constitution.

The church says the changes aim to allow Mr. Ramos to seek a second term. The 1987 charter limits him to a single six-year term which ends next year.

"If you are against military rule and authoritarianism, if you are for freedom and justice and peace, go to (the rally) on Sept. 21," Cardinal Sin said.

"The bomb threats, the ... tactics in the media and the rumour mill, the double talk of politicians and the manipulated consultation forums — they are all parts of the dirty tricks department of an aspiring dictatorship," Cardinal Sin added.

However, Mr. Ramos' predecessor Corason Aquino, a co-organiser of the rally, said "there is no clear and present danger (of martial rule)."

She said she wanted to "keep alive the spirit of people power... before it is too late" and that the protest was needed so the "president hears loud and clear our objections to any charter changes before May 1998."

Mr. Ramos had said he would step down from the presidency but last week surprisingly announced he would decide by November whether to seek a second term or not.

The government this week launched three days of national dialogue on what the public think about proposed constitutional amendments. Mr. Ramos is due back from a tour of Europe and the Middle East Friday.

A former member of his cabinet, ex-Defence Secretary Renato de Villa, said in a radio interview he had met Cardinal Sin Sunday and would meet Ms. Aquino to discuss the new crisis.



Huge waves smash against an embankment over a truck rumbling through water-soaked roads as typhoon Oliwa hits Kagoshima on the southwestern Japanese island of Kyushu Monday (Reuter photo)

South Japan hit by powerful typhoon; 4 killed

TOKYO (R) — A powerful typhoon stormed through the southern Japanese island of Kyushu Tuesday, killing at least four people and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes, police said.

Typhoon Oliwa, packing maximum winds of 125 kph (79 mph), hit areas near Kumamoto city on Kyushu Island, 900 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, at around 2.00 p.m. (0500 GMT).

The meteorological agency said the typhoon was gradually weakening and moving north northeast at 30 kph (19 mph).

About 67,000 residents sought refuge in emergency shelters as heavy rain threatened to trigger landslides and floods, police said.

Airlines cancelled more than 200 flights to and from Kyushu, and train services on the island were severely disrupted, with several lines reporting delays and cancellations.

The typhoon was expected to strike southwestern regions of Japan's main island of Honshu later Tuesday, the agency said.

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 6843111, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Right message from Turkey

TURKEY'S ASSURANCES yesterday to its neighbours that it is holding together with Israel and the U.S. in the Mediterranean are purely search and rescue exercises is a welcome development. Turkey made these assurances to Iraq and Egypt in separate meetings held with Iraqi and Egyptian leaders.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told reporters after talks with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel in Alexandria that he was "suspicious" at first about the manoeuvres but that Mr. Demirel assured him that the exercises were "limited to search and rescue."

The Turkish president, meanwhile, emphasised that his country's relations with Israel were not "against third countries" and that "no one should have any suspicions." He went further to allay the fears of his country's neighbours, especially Syria, by saying that "Turkey is a peaceful country" that has no quarrel with any Arab country requiring the use of force.

The Turks also conveyed a similar message to their eastern neighbour Iraq. An emissary of Mr. Demirel assured President Saddam Hussein that Turkey supports Iraq's "independence and territorial integrity."

Those Turkish messages will echo well in the Arab World which, most probably for lack of these assurances, had been apprehensive about the intentions of Turkey in northern Iraq on the one hand, and its military relations with Israel on the other.

Arabs near and far recognise Turkey's agonising fight against Kurdish insurgents. Yet they do not approve of the conflict between the Turkish army and the Kurdish rebels being fought over Iraqi territory, especially when reports started circulating that Ankara wanted to establish a so-called security zone in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, we know that Turkey's relations with its southern neighbour, Syria, are strained over allegations that the latter gives sanctuary to the Kurdish rebels. While we cannot say for sure whether those allegations are true or not, we are sure that good neighbourly relations between the two countries are not impossible, if all matters of contention between the two are discussed in a frank and well-intentioned manner.

Perhaps President Mubarak, who enjoys good relations with both presidents Hafez Assad and Demirel, can help by starting negotiations between the two nations. Both have an interest in doing so. And both will benefit from reaching agreements on the issues that divide them: borders, water and Kurdish insurgents.

President Demirel's assurances that his country has no problem with any Arab country requiring the use of force is a declaration of goodwill on which all Arabs are called to capitalise.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm discussed the status of the Jordanian professional unions in light of reports about the union boards cancelling thousands of memberships for failure to pay subscriptions. Mohammad Subeini said that the board of the Jordan Medical Association, which has 12,000 members, is threatening to oust 4,500 and the Jordan Engineers Association, which boasts a 37,000 membership, is contemplating striking off 12,000 names from its lists; the 4,000-member Nursing Association will strike off nearly 50 per cent of the total registered members. Should the associations carry out their threats, between 30 and 50 per cent of the union members will have their membership cancelled, will not be able to practise the profession because they failed to pay their subscription fees and will fail to attend any of their unions' general assembly meetings, said the writer. He said it seems that the engineers, the doctors and others have no desire to remain affiliated to their associations perhaps also because they are not convinced of the role being played by these associations in improving the professions. It seems that many of the engineers and doctors feel that their associations are not offering them anything, he added. The writer said the present situation resulted from the union members showing more inclination to engage in political rather than professional activities.

A WRITER for Al Dustour discussed the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East, expressing the view that she has failed to bring about any change in the Israeli and the Palestinian positions. Ms. Albright failed to persuade Benjamin Netanyahu to stop the settlements programme, to release the Palestinian prisoners or to implement the Oslo accords with the Palestinians; she also failed to pressure the Palestinians to give further concessions and to give up the struggle to regain their freedom and independence, said Hamadeh Farsaneh. The writer said that the Palestinians do not need anybody to convince them that security is of paramount importance because their own security is in danger in light of Israel's repression, and they agreed with Ms. Albright on the need to safeguard security for both sides. But, said the writer, thanks to the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit which preceded Ms. Albright's visit, the Palestinians displayed resolve to make it clear to the U.S. secretary that they can only cling to their legitimate rights. The writer said all Arab states, as well as the Europeans, are called upon to extend practical support to the Palestinians to help them regain their rights and thwart Mr. Netanyahu's plots against the peace process.

Washington Watch

'If the U.S. is to convince the region that it is a fair and honest broker, Congress and Israel must continue to be challenged'

By Dr. James Zogby

ON TUESDAY night, in the midst of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East, I had the opportunity to speak to President Bill Clinton about her trip and its chance for success.

Given the political climate in the U.S. and the Middle East, no one had high expectations for the outcome of the secretary's first foray in the region. But the president was clearly aware of the grave dangers that exist if the peace process continues to falter. Dangers not only to Israelis and Palestinians, but also to the U.S. standing and its interests in the broader Middle East.

At a minimum, he agreed Secretary Albright must return to the U.S. with Israelis and Palestinians and America's other Arab allies convinced that the U.S. is committed to be a firm and fair honest broker in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As low a measure of success as this might be, it is a necessary prerequisite to any further progress. It is also a useful guide by which to evaluate the secretary's visit.

Regardless of the fact that when pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made halting concessions, there is still widespread belief that he is not fully committed to full implementation of the peace accords signed by his predecessors. While Netanyahu recently offered a map of territorial concessions he is willing to make in final status talks (considered by some in the Jewish community as a breakthrough since no Likud leader has ever agreed to any territorial concessions), these are dismissed by some administration officials as "unacceptable concessions" which fall far short of fulfilling Palestinian aspirations. In any case, Netanyahu has now withdrawn consideration of any further redeployments until his security demands are met.

The Israeli prime minister appears to feel that he can play his cards as he

wishes because he has strong backing from the U.S. Congress and the politically powerful U.S. Jewish community.

To reinforce this point, a paid advertisement endorsed by five U.S. senators appeared in major U.S. papers on the day before the secretary's departure. The ad, an open letter to President Clinton, spoke of Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat in disgracefully harsh language, calling him a "villain" and terming his behaviour as "macabre." The ad and a similar letter sent to the president by 44 members of Congress urged the secretary to focus her visit on Palestinian terrorism and to refrain from any push for Israeli concessions.

It is clear that the administration has resisted this pressure. At two high-level meetings Arab American leaders had with National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and Under-Secretary of State Thomas Pickering just before the secretary's departure, we pressed the administration to adopt a more even-handed approach. With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, we specifically called on the secretary to reaffirm that the basis of the peace process was "land-for-peace" and implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and to press the Israelis on settlement construction, acts of collective punishment against Palestinians (i.e., house demolitions, land confiscation and closure) and urged her to push for implementation of the interim accords. Finally, we noted that if the secretary was to succeed in restoring confidence in U.S. leadership, she must use public diplomacy in an even-handed manner. It would be unacceptable, we noted, if the only public message that came out of her meetings focused on security issues. If public pressure was to be used with the Palestinian side, we said, it must be used with the

Israelis as well.

It is in this context that the first leg of Secretary Albright's Middle East visit should be viewed. While many Arab critics have faulted the secretary for focusing on the security dimension of her mission, it is important to note the significant portion of her message that addressed Arab concerns with the peace process. Even when addressing the issue of terrorism, the secretary and other administration officials voiced their concern not only in terms of loss of innocent Israeli lives, but also of the damage terrorism does to the Palestinians, noting that these attacks target the peace process, the PNA, and threaten Palestinian gains. In fact, one official noted with frustration that each act of terrorism is timed to take pressure off of the Israeli prime minister's failings and to focus U.S. and Israeli attention on the security issues instead of Israeli policies.

At the same time, Secretary Albright did reaffirm U.S. commitment to the "land-for-peace" formula and to implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338. Throughout the week, administration officials continued to refer to PNA President Arafat as "our partner in the peace process," thus refuting congressional efforts to demonise and isolate the Palestinian leader.

And the secretary reserved her sharpest comments for criticism of Israeli acts which destroy confidence in the peace process, citing settlement building, land confiscation, demolition of houses and confiscation of Jerusalem identity cards. She also spoke eloquently of her concerns for Palestinian suffering on a number of occasions, referring to the "difficult" and "horrible" conditions in which Palestinians are forced to live and calling on the Israelis to make efforts to improve Palestinian daily life.

To add further clarity to her message, the secretary also had a well publicised

meeting with the widow of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a meeting with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, the contents of which were later leaked to the press by State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin.

Following her visit with Secretary Albright to the tomb of her husband, Leah Rabin, at a press conference, spoke harshly of the current Israeli prime minister. She accused Netanyahu of attempting to "bring Yasser Arafat to his knees" and said she had doubts that the prime minister wanted peace. Mrs. Rabin said: "To say it is possible for Arafat to stop the terror without there being forward movement towards peace is impossible."

To add further pressure on Netanyahu, the State Department spokesman told reporters following President Weizman's meeting with Secretary Albright that Weizman had said "the U.S. should be prepared to pressure Bibi to finish the second stage of redeployment on the West Bank." Rubin added: "I thought that was a remarkable statement by the Israeli president."

Rubin also quoted Weizman as saying that "Israel should not use economic pressure against the Palestinians."

While some Arab commentators heard only part of Secretary Albright's message, it would be unfair to ignore the rest of her message and the carefully staged events with Mrs. Rabin and the Israeli president and the impact that they were designed to have. Clearly, the secretary was not misunderstood in the U.S.

Headlines told the story, "Albright asks Israel to take time-out on settlements" (New York Times 12/9/97), "Albright draws fire from Israelis; asks for time out on Jewish settlements" (Washington Times 12/9/97).

As Secretary Albright

noted on her departure, she had no magic formula that could save the peace process. Given the hostility of Congress, the intransigence of the Netanyahu government and the persistence of acts of violence designed to disrupt the peace process, she faced huge hurdles in her effort.

Her goals were, therefore, limited: to shake up the internal Israeli debate, to restore hope to a beleaguered Palestinian society and to convince all parties that if violence ended, pressure not only would be focused on the political issues that must be resolved to move the process forward.

While Secretary Albright's appeal has been accepted by President Arafat, it was rejected by the Israeli prime minister. She has succeeded, however, in provoking a strong internal debate in Israel. Most recent polls show that 60 per cent of all Israelis are dissatisfied with the prime minister's performance and 55 per cent specifically displeased with his policies towards the PNA.

It remains to be seen whether or not the secretary's goal of convincing the Arab World that the U.S. is a fair and balanced partner will be believed, but it would be unfortunate if she were not given credit for making a strong effort in this direction.

The real test of U.S. resolve will come in the next few weeks. If violence can be stopped, how the U.S. responds to Israel's rejection of Secretary Albright's appeal will be a critical factor in the overall assessment of the secretary's trip. The difficulties faced by the administration will, of course, be compounded by expected pressure from a hostile Congress. But if the U.S. is to convince the region that it is a fair and honest broker and if what is left of the peace process can be saved, Congress and Israel must continue to be challenged.

IT OCCURRED TO ME

Driving Mr. Official

By Ali Kassay

PEOPLE ALL over the world have individual interests that grip them for no obvious reason and that sometimes develop into a driving passion. At times, people seek out others who share the same fascination and they form clubs. At others, they believe that discretion is the better part of valour and hide their idiosyncrasy from society.

The point that I am trying to make is that a phenomenon or an activity which appears mundane to the world at large may turn out to be of great interest to someone you know, and you are completely surprised one day to discover that this person has devoted a considerable amount of his free time and energy over the years to a pursuit that you did not know existed.

This was the case a few days ago when I discovered that a friend of mine turned out to be a student of bad driving habits. He believes that the are many ways of being a bad driver, and that one can identify national traits in bad driving.

As far as Jordanian drivers are concerned, for instance, he believes that our driving practices, bad at any time and by any standards, appear at the present time to have surpassed all expectations and set new standards in this field — a crescendo of bad driving as he called it.

This, I pointed out, is partly explained by the fact that summer has given way to autumn, which in Jordan means a spell of hotter weather than that of the preceding season, and people go out and about while they still can drive their cars, before rain turns our highways and byways into lakes and rivers un navigable by motorcars already unworthy of dry and pitted asphalt roads.

He conceded the point that congestion exacerbates the problem, but he maintained that it did not suffice to explain it entirely. There was, he added, an utter and flagrant disrespect for the most basic rules of driving, or total ignorance of them.

One peculiarity of Jordanian bad driving, he noted, is that the motorists that show the least regard for laws, rules or regulations, whether in movement or in parking, happen to be driving cars with red number plates. In other words, official cars. Then, warning up to his theme, he proceeded to outline a plan that might simultaneously relieve the problem of congestion and improve the standards of living in Jordan, which was charming in its simplicity.

Every branch of government, he pointed out, has a fleet of duty-free cars that require constant maintenance and eventual replacement. If these were to be reduced in number to three cars per department, for instance, and the rest phased out, this would save the country millions of dinars every year. This money would be used to raise the salaries of government employees, whose proportion of the labour force was reduced from almost two thirds to around a quarter by the very clever act of redefining the term "government employee".

The increment to their earnings would enable them to buy their own cars, which would be taxed by the government, thereby not only raising the level of economic activity, but also generating further revenue for the government.

Moreover, when government employees start driving their own cars, they are paying their fines, thereby who knows, they may become more careful drivers.

Tiger economies have gone lame, but the long-term prospects for a more equal world are still bright

By Gwynne Dyer

"IT IS like a neutron bomb," said a Thai economist last month. "The buildings and structures are all there, but the people are all gone." Bangkok, ten weeks after the local currency collapsed, is a sorry sight: half-finished skyscrapers whose developers have gone bust, untenanted shopping malls, used-car lots jam-packed with repossessed late-model BMWs. The bloom is definitely off the rose in this "emerging market", and the damage has already spread to all the other fast-growing economies of South-East Asia.

It is a bigger smash than the meltdown of the Mexican peso in 1994, and it raises some worrisome questions. Is the widespread notion that the "Third World" has found a way to grow out of its poverty just a mirage? And if these crashes are a pattern — this is the second in three years — might they even drag the economies of the developed world down with them?

The Thai crash had exactly the same cause as the Mexican one: an incompetent and corrupt government driving the economy at an unsafe speed. Thailand's deficit was 8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), higher than Mexico's in 1994, and the government did nothing serious about it.

The psychology of permanent boom had tempted local companies into investments, mostly in real-estate development, that were funded almost entirely by unsecured bank

loans. When Mexico hit the rocks in 1994, the ratio of loans to GDP was 45 per cent. In Thailand, by last summer, it was 125 per cent.

So the crash was inevitable. The difference is that, whereas the damage in Latin America was successfully confined to Mexico, in this case it flashed across the rest of South-East Asia in weeks. Since the Thai currency was floated on July 2, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia have all seen their stock markets fall by 25-30 per cent and their money lose around a fifth of its value.

Mexico has only 90 million people; this time the crash hit 350 million people. South-East Asia's "tiger" economies have all gone lame, and the question hangs in the air: Was the whole notion that they had found the secret key to development a fantasy?

Not according to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed who blames it all on international speculators, and in particular on George Soros, whose Quantum Fund famously forced the British pound to devalue in 1992. "All these countries have spent 40 years trying to build up their economies," complained Mahathir in mid-July, "and a moron like Soros comes along with a lot of money to speculate, and ruins things."

One is reminded of former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson blaming the "gnomes of Zurich" for the poor performance of the British pound in the 60s. But Mahathir has a more highly developed persecution complex. According to

him, the speculators are not just out to make money. "I say openly, these people are racists," he told CNN. "They do not want to see us prosper." Mahathir is 71, and the fact that nobody dares to contradict him openly in Malaysia may have warped his judgement just a bit. For it was Mahathir, more than any other

"When you have high-speed economic growth and frantic investment activity in countries where there is also high corruption and low political accountability, there will be crashes."

single actor, who turned the Thai mess into a full-blown regional crisis.

Speculators in the market have the same function as wolves circling a herd of reindeer: they cull the weakest members, and indirectly contribute to the health of the herd as a whole. They are greedy, of course, but the ones who survive for a long time are cautious, coldly analytical, and completely unprejudiced: they only go after the obvious stragglers, and they make no distinctions of race, religion or politics among their prey.

The speculators had been circling around the Thai economy for more than a year, and the crash there was reasonably well controlled. Within six weeks, the International Monetary Fund and Japan led a group of Asian countries into a \$16 billion package to bail Thailand out of its immediate debt problems.

The Philippines central

bankers, knowing that their country would be the next target, acted fast: they floated the peso and signed up for an IMF loan. Indonesia resisted until mid-August, spending most of its foreign exchange reserves, and then succumbed. But it was Malaysia, whose economy was fundamentally in much better shape, that

his market controls, and both in Malaysia and elsewhere the economic turmoil has subsided. But what has this episode taught us about the bigger questions?

First, it has rubbed in the Mexican lesson: When you have high-speed economic growth and frantic investment activity in countries where there is also high corruption and low political accountability, there will be crashes. Mexico was not an accident: it is a pattern. There will be more of these local crashes in "emerging markets".

Second, the damage can be contained, even when major players make the wrong moves. The local pain may be very great for a while — "I don't think people here realise just how bad it's going to get," said an American banker in Bangkok — but these countries will recover. Even next year, South-East Asian economies will probably grow at 3 or 4 per cent, though not the customary 7 or 8.

And finally, local and even regional meltdowns like this are unlikely to break through and affect the whole global economy — unless, of course, we were to get two or three in the same year.

The long-term prospects for a more equal world are still bright. A World Bank report published this month predicts that developing countries (which now officially include both Russia and China) will double their share of world exports, from less than a quarter to almost half, by the year 2030.

Mahathir has now rescinded

Moon and mooncakes eaten at Chinese festival

By Carrie Lee
Reuter

HONG KONG. — When Chinese hite into their mooncakes to celebrate the annual moon festival this year, the moon itself will be "eaten".

In a rare occurrence, Hong Kong revellers celebrating the centuries-old mid-autumn moon festival saw a total lunar eclipse.

The festival recalls a 14th century revolt by Chinese who passed messages hidden inside mooncakes urging people to rebel against Mongolian rule.

The festival, which fell on Sept. 16 this year, was the first since Hong Kong's July 1 reunification with China after 156 years of British rule.

As thousands of revellers sat on beaches and hillsides with barbecues and campfires, and children touted lanterns depicting mythological characters, the earth's shadow appeared to "eat" the full moon.

The Chinese character meaning "eclipse" incorporates the words for "eat" and "worm".

During the spectacular total lunar eclipse, which occurs rarely during a mid-autumn festival, the earth passes between the sun and the moon, blocking much of the sunlight that usually reflects off the moon and causes its white glow.

"The eclipse will start shortly after midnight," said Hong Kong observatory scientific officer Y.K. Leung a few days before the event. "The whole process will last for three hours and 17 minutes."

The moon would still be visible, but as a copper-red ball as the sun's red light is refracted around the earth and reflects off the moon. "Because of the refraction of light, the moon will appear reddish," Mr. Leung said.

A total lunar eclipse is not

a rare event — the last one visible here was in 1993 — but it has been 19 years since the last one occurred during the festival.

Explanations drawn from rich imaginations

Chinese explain lunar eclipses with rich imagination.

"When a lunar eclipse occurred, people in our home town would say a dog was eating the moon. They would beat cymbals to frighten the dog away in order to save the moon," recalled a 90-year-old woman from southern China.

A colourful legend Chinese have handed down about the moon says that long ago, the world was scorched by 10 suns that burned people's skin, parched crops and dried up rivers.

A great archer shot down nine of the suns, and the people made him king. After taking power, he ordered his subjects to make a pill that would keep him young and let him live forever.

But his wife stole the elixir of immortality and when she put it into her mouth, she flew up to the moon where she met a man chopping a tree with a rabbit sitting beside him.

Today, with a bit of imagination, moon-gazers usually can conjure up these shadows on the moon.

The mid-autumn festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, and this year it occurred when the moon was nearest to earth.

At the festival, traditional Chinese bakeries, decked out with Chinese paintings depicting the moon with the lady trapped inside it, are flush with boxes of sweet mooncakes.

Children and lanterns

At the festival children

parade about with colourful lanterns, including traditional candle-lit models shaped like fruit or animals and made with rattan and paper, or foldable paper lanterns. Some carry modern plastic lamps lit with bulbs.

"The mid-autumn festival is a time of year when everywhere is adorned with colourful lanterns and other decorations, and the children are the happiest," said Hugo Leung, director of the Flourish Cake Shop, a renowned mooncake maker. "Every year people say this tradition will fade out. But every year we see business growing," he said.

Mooncakes are usually sold starting in June. But this year bakeries began selling them in May, targeting tourists here for the bandover of Hong Kong to China.

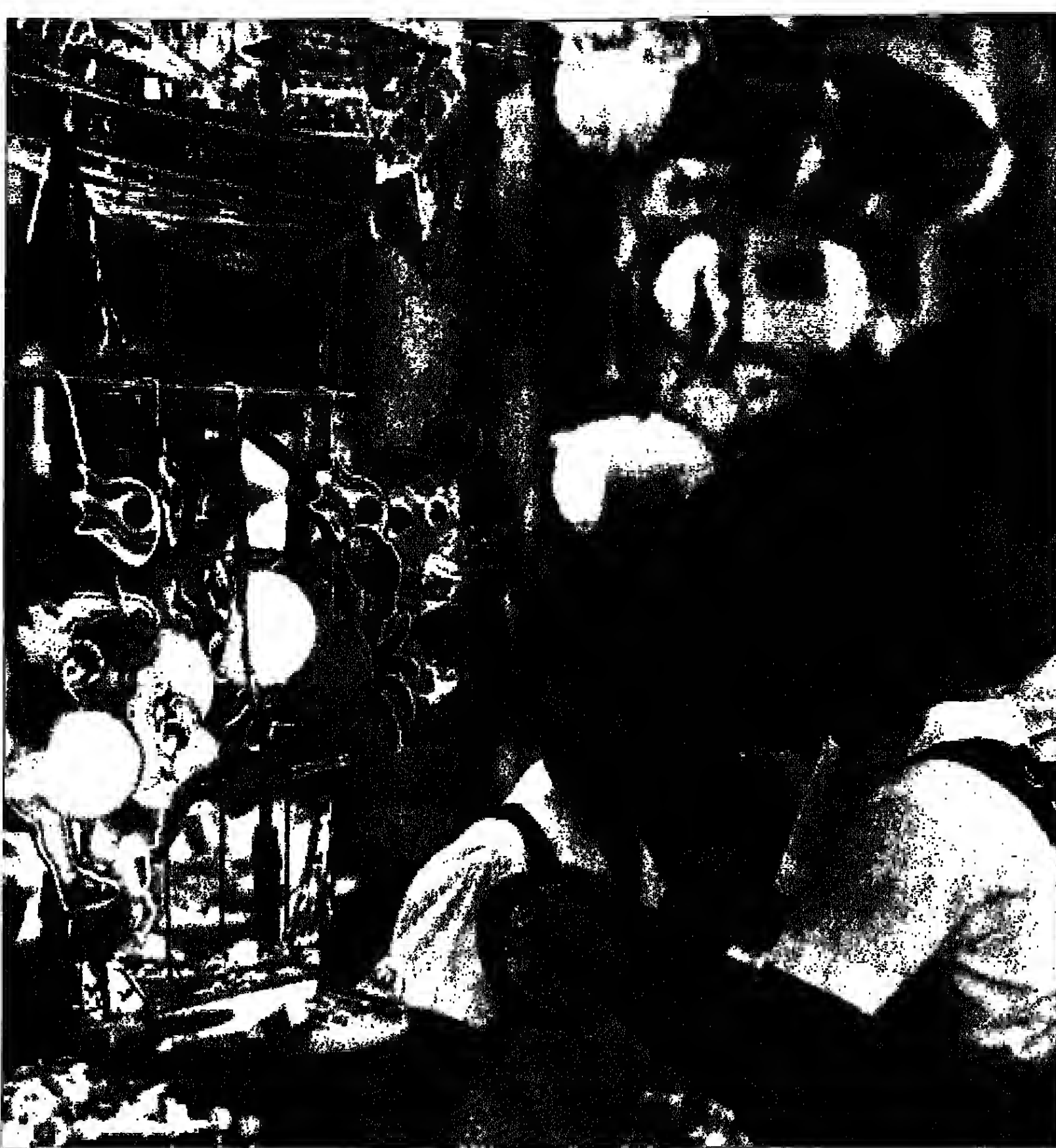
"This year we started selling mooncakes earlier to echo the festive atmosphere during the handover," said Mr. Leung.

Traditional mooncakes are desserts that have a brown crust and are filled with lotus seed paste or bean paste with salted duck egg yolks, or with melon seeds, nuts and balm.

The rich variety of mooncakes sold in Hong Kong today would have baffled those who first made them centuries ago.

There are ice-coloured mooncakes stuffed with all flavours of paste ranging from green beans to cappuccino to tropical durian fruit.

Hong Kong children select lanterns on display outside a store in Sheung (Reuter photo)



Maori want tattooed heads returned to New Zealand

By Matthew Brockett
Reuter

WELLINGTON. — A dried Maori head recently unearthed in Britain is one of more than 170 "mokomokai" (literally pet heads) outside new Zealand that Maori want returned.

The preserved heads, their faces adorned with the exquisite ancient art of "moko" tattoo, were highly prized by 19th century European traders. But for Maori, the cultural significance of the heads far outweighs their historic value.

"Unless we bring them back to their home, they won't be able to rest," said one Maori leader, Sir Graham Latimer. "It's only right that we repatriate the remains of our ancestors."

There are about 127 heads in foreign museums, although they are rarely exhibited due to their cultural sensitivity, and more than 50 are thought to be privately held overseas.

A macabre fascination with the painted "savage" head

British explorer Captain James Cook was the first European to bring a mokomokai back to the "civilised" world, after the head of a 14-year-old Maori boy was sold to a naturalist on board Cook's ship endeavour in 1770.

Maori soon realised they could capitalise on Europeans' macabre fascination with the tattooed heads of "savages".

They began to trade the heads for rifles and muskets to fight the early European settlers and wage their inter-tribal wars.

"The heads were regarded as curiosities in Europe," said Dave Simmons, a retired Auckland Museum ethnologist and expert on Maori artefacts.

"They became very much sought after, firstly because they were preserved human remains in the same sense as Egyptian mummies, but even more so because of the method of tattooing, the method of carving the skin which was completely astonishing to Europeans."

The Maori art of moko tattoo indicates rank and mana (prestige). The more intricate and beautiful the moko, the higher the person's standing — and the higher the price their head could fetch.

The mokoed heads of some great Maori chiefs found their way into European hands. Often, however, a tattoo would be done posthumously to replicate the designs exclusive to warriors or chiefs and increase the worth of the head.

There are gruesome stories of live, tattooed-to-order slaves being paraded in front of colonial soldiers, who selected the most handsome native face to be cold-bloodedly beheaded.

Mr. Simmons said there is more than a grain of truth to the tales.

"There are records of ship captains parading down a line of people with tattoos and saying 'I want that one, that one and that one'," he said.

Horror stories hide ancient cultural art

But beneath these head-hunting horror stories hides a deeply sensitive and treasured cultural art.

The preservation of heads, through a highly skilled embalming process, was the way in which Maori kept alive the memories of their loved ones and their chiefs.

"It was an ancient Maori custom that when people died away from their home village, they would preserve perhaps the head, perhaps the heart, and take that back for the tangi (funeral)," said Mr. Simmons.

He said the preservation of heads was also a method of extracting revenge for past wrongs.

"The relatives and the widows of the people who had been wronged could not go on the war party, but the heads of their enemies could be preserved and taken back to the village, where they would be despised."

The heads were steamed in earth ovens, or umu pits, and when cooked, tribal elders would express the fat and flesh from underneath the skin, replacing it with flax fibre to

plump the face out again.

The eyes were normally sewn shut and, if it was the head of a friend, the lips were sewn shut as well. If it was the head of an enemy, the lips were left open, exposing the teeth as a sign of war or tapu (taboo).

The head was often decorated with greenstone jewellery, and the hair dressed with feathers.


Maori want heads of their ancestors back

Maori Affairs Minister Tau Henare has said he wants to retrieve the Maori head dug up in the English city of Liverpool in August. It was discovered in a grave along with the head of an aboriginal warrior.

But Mr. Henare and other Maori leaders have also called for the return of all tattooed Maori heads from foreign collections, saying they are at the crux of several Maori grievances.

"The return of these items forms a vital part of the healing process for a number of Maori," Sir Graham said.

Mr. Simmons, who has just completed a listing of all the Maori artefacts in Europe, said that in addition to the mokomokai, thousands of other Maori artefacts are held overseas.

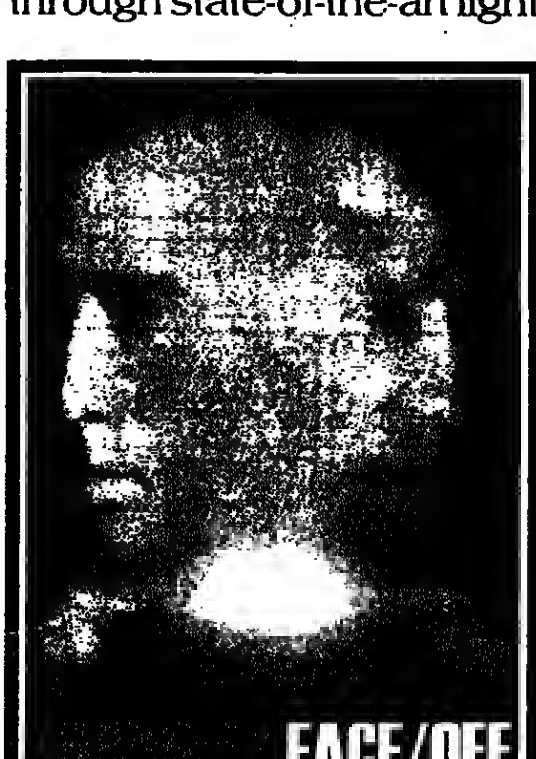


اليوم الافتتاح الكبير لعبدون جاليريا

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It's a mind blowing revolution.**

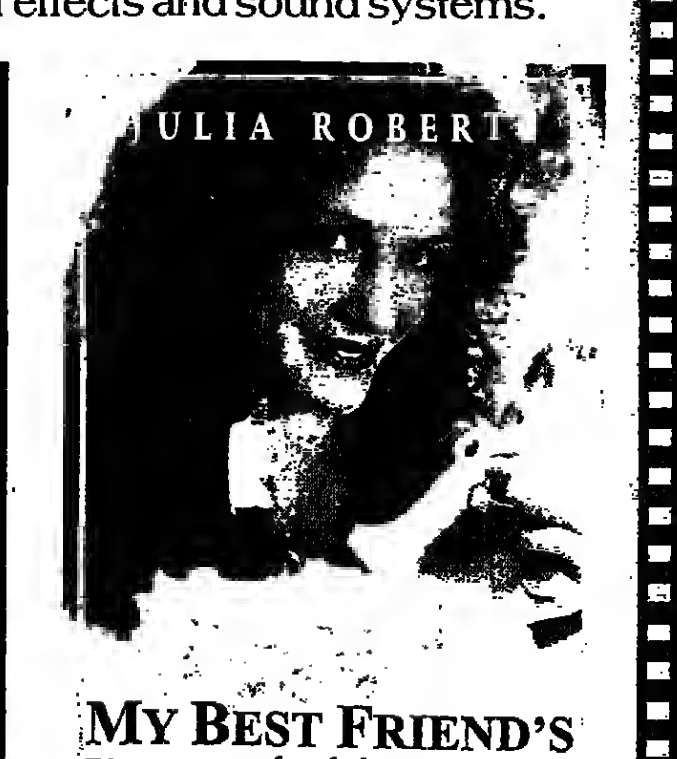
Opening today in the heart of Abdoun, a visual experience known only in dreams in a most unique and sophisticated atmosphere.

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FACE/OFF

Galleria 1



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Wedding**

Galleria 2

Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan Cooperative Corporation to reschedule JD20m of farmers' debts

JORDAN COOPERATIVE Corporation expects to collect between JD150,000 and JD200,000 a month after rescheduling more than JD20 million of agricultural loans owed by farmers and cooperative societies. The corporation's board of directors has this week approved the formation of a central committee to collect and reschedule the loans and has authorised the director general of the corporation to carry out the rescheduling.

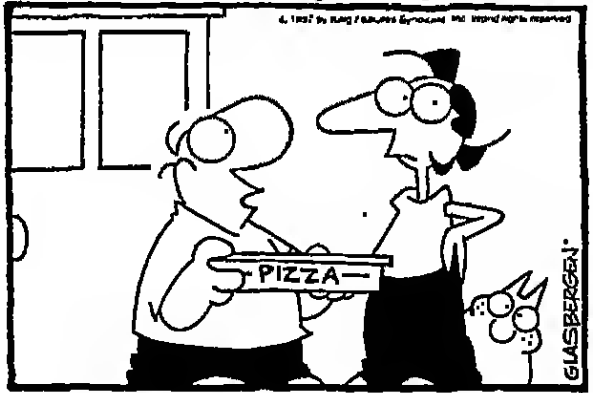
The committee was authorised to find out the volume of loans by regions and to form secondary committees in the governorates in order to contact the borrowers and collect the unpaid sums, the director general, Khaled Al Tayyeh, said. He indicated that the rescheduling of the loans would facilitate the repayment as most borrowers are farmers who are passing through difficult financial conditions.

Mr. Tayyeh explained that the committee has adopted the same bases used by the Ministry of Finance in rescheduling and collecting the loans. In this context, borrowers who have dues exceeding JD20,000 have to repay the loan within a maximum of eight years. Loans not exceeding JD1,000 each should be repaid within one year (Al Dustour).

Arab Bank launches capital guaranteed fund

ARAB BANK is launching a new Capital Guaranteed Fund across the Middle East, which will give investors the opportunity of investing in a fund that guarantees the security of their capital, whilst providing potentially higher returns than traditional deposit and savings accounts. The new Capital Guaranteed Fund was launched in Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon on 13 September and will also be launched in Egypt, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus on 27 September and will close on 27 October. Full details of the fund are available through Arab Bank's extensive branch network. In addition, Arab Bank has placed a team of specially trained Investment Executives in major branch locations throughout the Middle East who will provide detailed information on the fund.

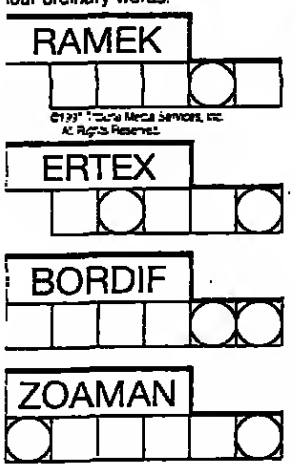
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"The way I see it, if you put onions and green peppers on your pizza, it's the same as eating a salad."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: AN

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEFOG GAUGE ISLAND FELONY
Answer: When it wasn't this it was that - ONE "FINE" DAY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghir



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Citibank, MasterCard launch India's first debit card

BOMBAY (AFP) — Citibank N.A. and MasterCard International launched India's first debit card here Tuesday, with officials predicting a quick takeoff for the business in a country with 200 million bank account holders.

"We are the first financial institution in India to participate in Maestro, the world's largest online debit programme from MasterCard International," Ashoke Dutt, Citibank's global consumer bank head, told a news conference.

Mr. Dutt said the debit cards would enable Citibank customers to directly access

their bank accounts from merchant establishments and pay for a wide range of goods with their current Any Time Money cards.

A credit card customer pays later for purchases, while purchases on a debit card are debited instantly, via an electronic funds transfer system, from the customer's bank account, putting the card company at no risk.

Mr. Dutt said that by the end of December about 1,000 debit card terminals would be set up in India.

Mr. Sekulic, deputy president MasterCard Asia Pacific, said India, with 200

million bank account holders, had the potential for 50 million debit card holders in five years time.

"We are talking to 23 banks, including six foreign banks, to introduce our debit cards in India," he said.

Mr. Sekulic said India provided an "enormous opportunity" for the debit card business, which had seen "phenomenal growth" since it was introduced into the Asia-Pacific region in November 1993.

"The Maestro card will see a paradigm shift in the payments system across India and will be widely accepted by banks and cus-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Qatar reach transport accord

MANAMA (AP) — Egypt's Suez Canal Authority has reached an agreement with Qatar granting tankers carrying liquefied natural gas from Qatar to Europe a 35 per cent discount, the authority confirmed Tuesday. Under the agreement, Qatar will transport a total of one million tonnes of gas to Spain on 13 voyages between Oct. 1 and Dec. 30 of this year, said a canal authority official, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. The price for each tanker will be set according to how much gas it is carrying, minus 35 per cent, the official added. The authority periodically reviews the rates for all tankers and vessels, and the next review is scheduled for late September or early October. The discount for Qatar will apply under the new rates.

Britain to decide on euro

LONDON (AFP) — Britain will announce before the end of the year whether it will join the single European currency when it is due to be introduced on January 1, 1999, a press report said here Tuesday. The Daily Telegraph, quoting senior government sources, said the decision would almost certainly go against immediate entry and would come just weeks before Britain begins its six-month presidency of the EU in January 1998. The paper noted that such an announcement would allow Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown to chair meetings of EU finance ministers without his government's position being subject to speculation. Britain's Labour government has until now virtually ruled out participation in the euro at the scheduled launch date. However, Mr. Brown introduced a measure of flexibility into the official position in July when he said he wanted an "open and intelligent" debate on the merits of Britain joining the planned European monetary union.

Italy issues new banknote

ROME (R) — Italy's central bank issued a new 500,000 lire (\$290) bill Monday, probably the last banknote it will release before the launch of a European currency, bank officials said. Some 30 million of the new 500,000 lire bill, Italy's largest, were issued. The new half-million lire bill will be replaced by the euro by January 1, 1999 at the latest, Bank of Italy Vice-Director General Antonio Finocchiaro said. Mr. Finocchiaro said that despite the bill's high value — one-third of the monthly salary of the majority of Italians — it would not spur inflation. But the banknote, which depicts three paintings by Italian 15th century painter Raphael, was not well received by consumer groups. "Introducing bills of a higher value always means lowering the consideration given to spending," the consumer group ADOC said. "And losing a banknote worth 500,000 hurts everyone, but especially retirees whose pension is 600,000 to 700,000 lire."

Credit card users face additional fees

HANOI (AFP) — Using Visa or MasterCard to draw cash in Vietnam could be more expensive beginning next month as the State Bank of Vietnam is allowing banks to impose a fee of up to three per cent on all cash advances, a report said Tuesday. As card issuers can already charge a fee of four per cent of the withdrawn amount, using the card to get cash in Vietnam could result in a whopping seven per cent charge, the official Saigon Times daily said. The decision to allow banks to impose the fee on cash advances in Vietnamese dong and foreign currencies was made to restrict foreigners from drawing large amounts of cash at banks, a central bank official said. People using the cards to pay for purchases will not have to pay any fee. The newspaper quoted Nguyen Nhat Trung, director of the Credit Card Center of the Asian Commercial Bank, as saying the decision would discourage customers from using their credit cards.

SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Located in Sweifiyeh, Abbas Al Sayeh sub-street, branching off the U.S. embassy street, behind the Chinese Restaurant, House No.9. Consisting of three bedrooms, 3 salons, 3 bathrooms, 3 verandas - new Karara Italian marble floors for salons and corridors - water reservoir, games hall, maid and storage room, central heating, two garages, spacious garden with trees and satellite.

Offer for diplomatic missions, directors of foreign companies, regional offices and international organisations.

Please call owner directly at 810980 during the day and Tel. 861025 at night.

Jordan plans private power plant next year

AMMAN (R) — Jordan expects to award a contract to a strategic investor to build, own and operate (BOO) the country's first independently run power plant by the second half of next year, officials said Tuesday.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources expects to announce by year-end a shortlist of the firms who have submitted prequalification documents for the estimated 300-400 megawatt

capacity power plant.

It expected to award the BOO plant by the second half of next year, ministry officials said.

Over 80 companies, among them international firms involved in power generation, have already received the prequalification documents for the plant.

The ministry has extended to Sept. 30 the closing date for companies to submit their documents.

The U.S. firm K&M Engineering and Consulting Corporation is already acting as an adviser to the ministry in both the prequalification process and setting the terms of reference, which are also expected to be completed by year-end. Jordan hopes the project, part of plans to privatise the power generation sector, will be commissioned by 2001.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAHAB											
TELEPHONE: 60711 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 16/09/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
346,000	241,000	ARAB BANK	15.5	1.19	9	3700	1242260	340.00	336.00	4.00	-
N 2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	23	9600	19105	1.98	1.99	0.01	+
3,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	9	880	2647	3.00	3.00	-	-
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.9	7.03	3	500	1228	2.25	2.25	0.00	-
4,600	2,400	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.90	13	15150	75296	4.97	4.97	0.00	-
1,050	750	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.21	13	8596	6481	0.75	0.76	0.01	+
3,800	3,080	JOR. INV. PFM. BANK	21.9	0.00	3	28950	98430	3.40	3.40	0.00	-
2,280	890	SEPC. AD. (MSTRA)	6	15.31	6	6000	8823	3.35	3.35	0.00	-
1,440	850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	8.09	0.00	11	11334	10425	0.92	0.92	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 240.32 %CHG: -0.89 90 84710 1461593											
1,850	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.5	5.68	49	24786	43764	1.77	1.76	-0.01	-
2,560	1,320	IRRID. ELECTRICITY	16.0	4.28	10	1642	4417	2.56	2.69	0.13	+
3,550	4,100	JOR. PETROL. REF.	13.9	4.44	2	150	6777	4.50	4.50	0.00	-
1,850	930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	5	771	1062	1.39	1.38	-0.01	-
1,790	1,150	MID. EAST HOTELS	19.0	0.00	1	100	128	1.19	1.28	0.09	+
3,720	2,880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.7	0.00	8	6000	20100	3.35	3.35	0.00	-
1,220	930	ZAKA. EDUCATION	8.4	0.00	3	450	450	1.01	1.00	-0.01	-
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.25	5	1700	2980	1.75	1.76	0.01	+
1,010	640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	5	1250	898	0.72	0.72	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.96 %CHG: -0.47 88 36849 74471											
1,100	930	ATTARJEES	9	0.00	1	1500	1500	1.00	1.00	-	-
4,450	3,220	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	25.9	2.86	23	4893	18741	3.84	3.84	-	-
4,140	3,000	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.4	2.67	1	2000	7500	3.75	3.75	-	-
7,050	5,400	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.0	3.33	4	850	3900	6.15	6.00	-0.15	-
10,900	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REF.	10.4	8.01	67	608	64777	10.48	10.70	0.22	+
3,260	1,620	INDUSTRIAL COM. MGR.	9	0.00	5	1000	1638	1.68	1.65	-0.03	-
4,640	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.8	4.29	42	8231	38150	4.60	4.66	0.06	+
1,800	1,270	JOR. PAPER MANF.	15.7	6.30	1	1000	1270	1.27	1.27	0.00	-
3,330	2,700	JOR. PAPER CARD.	15.8	0.00	4	1166	3264	2.82	2.82	0.00	-
5,550	4,300	QAR ALDANA DV. INV.	14.6	4.20	14	4803	40143	5.85	5.95	0.10	+
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.9	10.00	7	1050	2599	2.41	2.50	0.09	+
1,280	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	9	9483	4456	4.77	4.77	0.00	-
1,280	1,000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	31.5	0.00	2	88	90	1.04	1.03	-0.01	-
770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	3	7000	3640	0.52	0.52	-	-
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	7	6950	3625	0.56	0.55	-0.01	-
2,700	1,510	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	12.7	0.00	1	200	304	1.52	1.52	0.00	-
3,000	2,070	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MFG.	35.3	0.00	3	121	267	2.15	2.20	0.05	+
890	530	JOR. SULPHUR-CHM.	9	0.00	3	900	556	0.62	0.62	-	-
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	4	414	554	1.34	1.34	-	-
1,880	1,060	UNIV. MOON. INDS.	12.2	10.99	7	4850	6111	1.25	1.26	0.01	+
1,510	910	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	1	250	228	0.91	0.91	-	-
1,620	1,300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.7	4.49	4	1100	1715	1.57	1.56	-0.01	-
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	11	6042	5021	0.84	0.83	-0.01	-
2,090	1,340	EL. - SAY READY WEAR	54.5	0.00	4	300	465	1.55	1.55	-	-
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	4	320	365	1.16	1.14	-0.02	-
1,170	850	UNION CH. & VEG.	53.6	0.00	1	1000	1180	1.15	1.18	0.03	+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 120.93 %CHG: -0.75 233 73363 212258											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174.69 %CHG: -0.81 411 194922 1748321											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 16/09/1997											
710	410	MACH. EQP. REPT. MAIN.	9	0.00	1	3000	1470	0.50	0.49	-0.01	-
630	340	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	2000	650	0.34	0.32	-0.02	-
650	380	JOR. TRADE PRC.	11.2	0.00	29	27650	11339	0.41	0.42	0.01	+
N 990	540	JOR. PFM. INV. CO.	9	0.00	25	111800	76042	0.69	0.68	-0.01	-
840	660	UNION INV. SOF	9	0.00	22	67012	16081	0.74	0.74	0.00	-
570	360	ARAB PFM. INVEST.	9	0.00	2	2000	760	0.38	0.38	-	-
N 950	720	AL-SHARH INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	10000	8500	0.85	0.85	-	-
N 950	610	AL-QADSIYAH 75%	73.9	0.00	4	850	442	0.77	0.77	-	-
730	490	ARAB FOOD & MCD.	9	0.00	1	300	147	0.49	0.49	-	-
380	270	AL-SHARH INV. CO.	47.2	0.00	11	9200	3690	0.42	0.41	-0.01	-
N 750	400	NATL. MULT. ENG. NAMCO	9	0.00	22	12706	5416	0.43	0.43	-	-
960	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.2	0.00	1	2000	1860	0.93	0.93	-	-
730	580	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	3	286	108	0.63	0.63	-	-
1,190	860	UNION TOBACCO	9	0.00	5	800	894	1.19	1.16	-0.03	-
730	550	RAST PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	38	63917	33584	0.67	0.67	-	-
570	290	INDOS. ENG.	9	0.00	1	1000	300	0.30	0.30	-	-
860	690	INDOS. CERAMIC	18.4	0.00	3	316	421	0.69	0.70	0.01	+
N 760	470	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	9	0.00	1	10000	4900	0.49	0.49	-	-
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	2	700	455	0.64	0.65	0.01	+
N 1,000	690	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 75%	97.4	0.00	13	15000	6750	0.69	0.70	0.01	+
860	580	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.5	16.39	5	8000	4880	0.61	0.61	-	-
GRAND TOTAL						192	347749	177787			
I : New 12 months high + : New 12 months low N : Listed during the past 12 months P : P/E ratio is 100 or more g : Negative P/E E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

Newcastle relishing UEFA clash with Spanish giants

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Newcastle face a Champions League showdown with Barcelona, one of the biggest clubs in the world, on the back of a 3-1 home defeat to Wimbledon, the smallest club in the Premiership.

But Newcastle's England midfielder Robert Lee believes Saturday's humiliation, which ended a 13-match unbeaten run, could work to Newcastle's advantage on one of the biggest games in the club's history on Wednesday.

Lee said: "The lads can't wait for Wednesday night to put things right and be able to put Saturday's disaster show out of our system."

"Maybe Barcelona will come here a little complacent or over-confident, especially if their spies in the crowd on Saturday report back and state how poorly we performed."

"However, people who saw us at the end of last season and the beginning of this one know we are a good

Champions League fixtures to be played on Wednesday:

- Group A: Galatasaray, Turkey v Borussia Dortmund, Germany; Sparta Prague, Czech Republic v Parma, Italy
- Group B: Kosice, Slovakia v Manchester United, England; Juventus, Italy v Feyenoord, Netherlands
- Group C: PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands v Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine; Newcastle, England v Barcelona, Spain
- Group D: Real Madrid, Spain v Rosenborg, Norway; Olympiakos, Greece v Porto, Portugal
- Group E: Bayern Munich, Germany v Besiktas, Turkey; Paris-Saint Germain, France v Gothenburg, Sweden
- Group F: Sporting Lisbon, Portugal v Monaco, France; Bayer Leverkusen, Germany v Lierse, Belgium.

team. We aim to make certain that Wednesday sees a better show from us, certainly we know what we have to do."

With midfield hard-man David Batty and star striker Faustino Asprilla certain to start and the slim possibility of Stuart Pearce returning, the Newcastle supporters have some cause for opti-

mism.

Lee clearly feels his England colleague Batty will be vital to their hopes.

"No-one does the holding job as good as Batts," he said. "If we break forward on Wednesday the other midfield players and I know he is not going to be running next to us but covering behind us, stopping the

opposition playing and then giving us the ball to play with."

Asprilla, who created Colombia's goal last week which saw them qualify for next year's World Cup finals, is the man Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal believes will be Newcastle's main attacking threat to his team's Champions' League aspirations.

Barcelona's coaching staff have taken a close look at United both live and on video and they know that the unorthodox striker is the dangerman.

John Beresford, Newcastle's two-goal hero of the home leg of their second preliminary round victory over Croatia Zagreb said: "This tie is our own European Cup Final and it is how we will treat it."

"Until last Saturday we hadn't tasted defeat in 13 matches, but now we must show we can start all over again by bouncing back with a good performance against Barcelona."



A Thundercat inflatable boat jumps over a wave and an opponent during a New South Wales Championship race at Soldiers Beach on the Central Coast. Weighing only 150 kilograms, the fifty horsepower boats can reach speeds of up to 55 knots (Reuters photo)

Johnson sees tough year as blessing

WACO (AFP) — Michael Johnson overcame an injury-filled season to win a world 400m title. Now the American figures his struggles in 1997 will help his bid for gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"Everything happens for a reason," he said.

"This season made me stronger. Maybe it will help my career. If I had run a full season, maybe I would have been burned out by 1999 or 2000. Maybe this break will be good for me."

Johnson suffered a strained left thigh in a 150m match race in Toronto against Canada's Donovan Bailey.

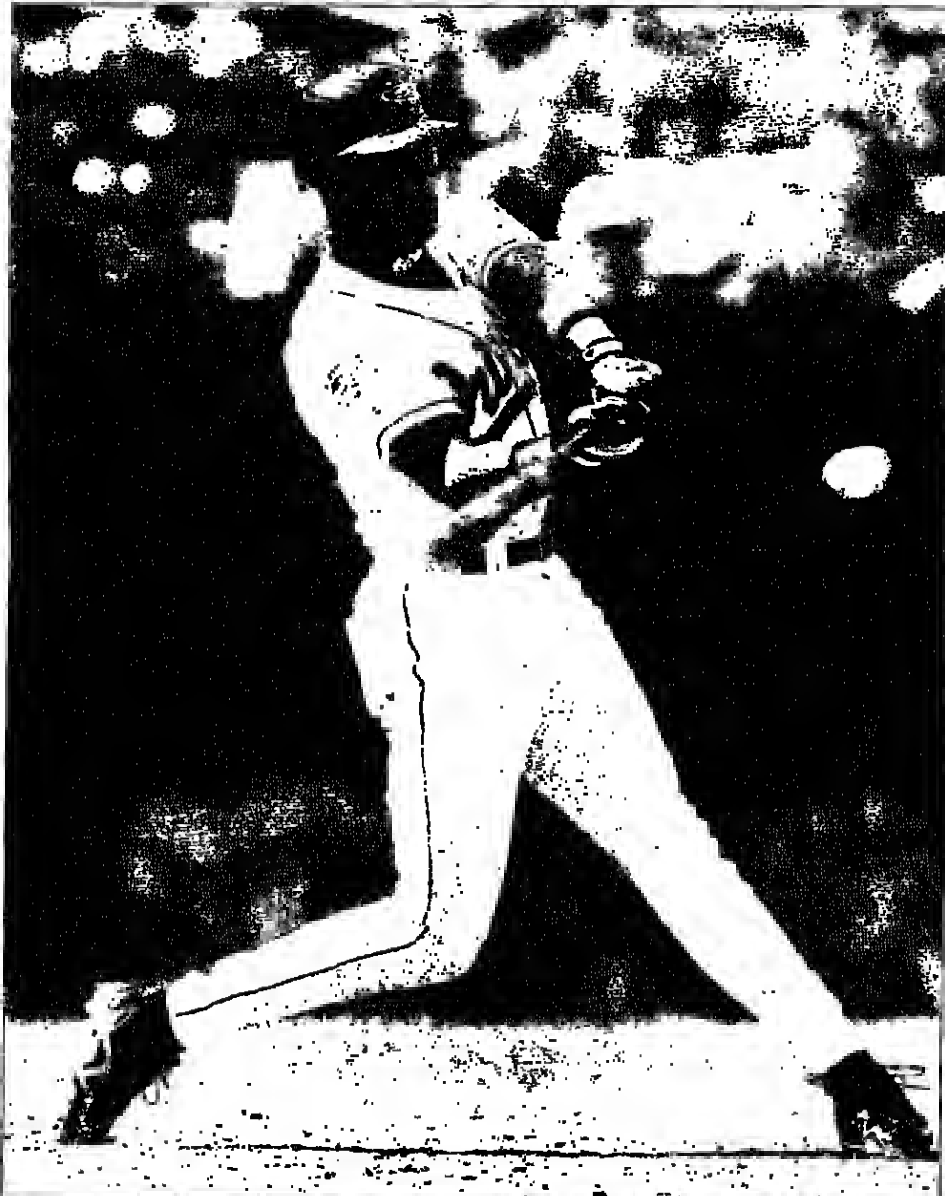
Far from in top form, Johnson entered the world meet on a special invitation and struggled in silence with thigh, hip and lower back pain. But he won the world title in 44.12 seconds.

"It was my slowest World Championship of the three but that was unimportant," Johnson said. "I just wanted to win. It's one of my biggest wins, in a way. Most races I know if I run as fast as I can I'm going to win. I didn't know that this time."

"People see now that I'm not just good in the flowers. I can be good in the bushes with thorns as well."

Johnson has returned home here and will travel to Australia and South Korea for sponsor obligations before beginning full rehabilitation of his left leg.

Johnson plans to resume training in late October or November then decide about his indoor season, with an eye on the 400-metre world record of compatriot Butch Reynolds.



Baltimore Orioles' Eric Davis swings at a pitch from Cleveland Indians' Brian Anderson at Camden Yards in his first game back since undergoing surgery for colon cancer. Davis went hitless in three at bats before being relieved after five innings (Reuters photo)

MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

National League			
NY Mets	10	Philadelphia	5
Philadelphia	2	Ny Mets	1
Colorado	7	Florida	1
Pittsburgh	5	Montreal	4 (10 Innings)
Atlanta	5	San Francisco	4
Cincinnati	4	Chicago Cubs	1
San Diego	4	Houston	3
Los Angeles	7	St Louis	6 (15 Innings)
American League			
Baltimore	6	Cleveland	5
Cleveland	4	Baltimore	1
NY Yankees	7	Boston	6
Milwaukee	11	White Sox	10
Kansas City	11	Texas	9
Anaheim	8	Minnesota	5
Detroit	6	Oakland	3
Seattle	7	Toronto	3

Senna trial re-starts

IMOLA (AFP) — A trial into the death of Ayrton Senna at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix reopened here on Tuesday, with the Brazilian's steering column once again in the spotlight.

Six men face manslaughter charges after the tragedy here — team owner Frank Williams, technical director Patrick Head and chief designer Adrian Newey, along with three race officials.

All six are expected to appear here next week, although Imola magistrate Antonio Costanzo will announce the official dates on Tuesday.

State prosecutor Maurizio Passarini claims that Senna's modified steering column failed as the triple world champion took the Tamburello curve, sending his car into a concrete wall at high speed.

Passarini is now expected to recall former Italian Formula One driver Michele Alboreto to the witness box to discuss video evidence.

In a previous court appearance, Alboreto said he had not noticed Senna making any particular correcting movements of the wheel — moves which might have indicated a steering column failure.

The ex-Ferrari driver reached that conclusion after watching VHS tape from the car's on-board camera.

However, Passarini has since reportedly shown Alboreto a better-definition Betacam tape of the same images, supplied by the sport's ruling International Automobile Federation (FIA).

After watching these pictures, Alboreto is believed to have revised his opinion and noticed Senna make a clearer sideways movement at the wheel.

Tuesday's hearing in a council-owned ballroom is also expected to include appearances by technical experts from the Williams team. The six accused are expected to appear for next week's sessions, which have been pencilled in for September 22, 24 and 25.

All six deny the charges, the first ever to be levelled against a Formula One team, and which carry a maximum sentence of five years.

75 per cent increase in British steroid cases

LONDON (AFP) — The number of British athletes failing steroid drug tests has increased by 75 per cent and is now larger than ever, the U.K. Sports Council said on Tuesday.

Michele Verroken, director of ethics and anti-doping at the Sports Council told BBC radio that the number of steroid cases had increased over the last year from 15 to 27 cases of anabolic steroids, although the total number of drug findings had remained steady.

She said the findings showed that some people appeared to be using drugs even on the day of a competition.

The vast majority of the findings came from powerlifting and weightlifting. If athletes felt they could take the drugs because of an insufficient testing

programme, sport must look carefully at how it deterred people from taking drugs, she said.

"If we are reducing penalties, as appears to be the trend, then the sports federations may have to ask their athletes what really will stop this misuse among the few," she added.

Verroken said detection methods had improved and that when all Britain's Olympic athletes were tested before the Atlanta Games last year, the results were 100 per cent negative.

"There are still a lot of clean athletes out there," she added.

Ghana, Spain enter semis in Under 17 World Cup

PORT SAID (AP) — Spain beat Egypt 2-1 and title holder Ghana won 4-1 Monday to advance to the semifinals of the Under 17 soccer World Cup.

The two winners will meet in the semifinals on Thursday. The other semifinal, also Thursday, will be between Brazil and Germany.

After his team's defeat, Oman's coach, Mubarak Sultan, cried foul, saying some of Ghana's players "look too old."

"Our fear was not about their skill but their size, build and aggressiveness," he said. FIFA, the world governing body for soccer, had said before the tournament that it is satisfied no players are overage.

Ghanaian officials did not immediately respond to the Omani allegation. Ghana won the FIFA U-17 tournament in 1995 and 1991 and was runner-up in 1993.

"The real competition begins now for us ... We have a mission that will be realised, reaching the final," said Ghanaian coach, Emmanuel Kwasi Afranie.

Egypt took the defeat in its stride, saying Spain deserved to win.

"I am very satisfied with the performance ... We could have won if not for some individual mistakes," said Egyptian coach Mohammed Aly.

"I admire the Spanish team and I think they have the ability to make it to the final," he said.

Ghana 4, Oman 1

Disaster struck for Oman in the 25th minute during a fracas in its penalty area when — trying to clear a shot by Afriyie Owusu — Juma Nasser scored an own goal.

Cheered by the gift, Michael Coffie took a pass from Abubakari Yakubu in the 42nd minute and put it into the net as a couple of bungling defenders and the goalie lay sprawled on the ground.

Oman reduced the deficit to 2-1 in the

57th when Salah Al-Amari headed the ball in after a well-crafted set of passes beginning with a free kick.

Oman blew three chances to score in the next six minutes.

Ghana advanced again when Owusu scored in the 79th minute, taking a running pass and shooting a right kick into the net.

Quaye Awule completed the rout in the 87th with the fourth goal.

Spain 2, Egypt 1

In Ismailiya, Spain opened its account in the 28th minute with an unmarked Sergio Gonzalez running through the field to beat goalkeeper Ahmad Ekramy and defender Hany Zakari.

Egypt equalised three minutes later when Ahmad Belal took a pass in the penalty area with his chest, rolled it forward and scored with an angular kick.

But Egypt's joy was short lived as Juan Camacho, taking a pass from Miguel Corona, shot high into the roof of the net in the 66th minute to seal a 2-1 victory for Spain over Egypt.

A 52nd minute goal by Spain was disallowed for being offside.

The Spanish coach, Juan Santisteban, was upbeat: "I am now going to begin preparing for the (semi-final) match against Ghana."

CINEMA	TEL: 634141	CINEMA	TEL: 634141	CINEMA	TEL: 692236	CINEMA	TEL: 677420	CINEMA	ABDOUN	CINEMA	ABDOUN	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 63155
PHILADELPHIA "1"		PHILADELPHIA "2"		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2		
Val Kilmer & Elizabeth Shue...in		Alyssa Milano & William Petersen...in		DON JOHNSON...IN		CONCORD "1"		ABDOUN		ABDOUN		Watch out for the new play
THE SAINT		FEAR		GUILTY AS SIN		Sandra Bullock & Samuel L. Jackson...in		John Travolta & Nicolas Cage		Julia Roberts ... In		THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		A TIME TO KILL (12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30)		In		MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING		Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
						CONCORD "2"		Face Off				
						BATMAN & ROBIN		Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:30				
						Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only						



Steffi Graf

Graf will not return as co-No. 1

STAMFORD, Connecticut (AFP) — Steffi Graf will not return to the WTA Tour as a co-No. 1 in the same manner Monica Seles was able to share the top spot after her comeback from being stabbed.

Tour officials said no discussions have been made about the German receiving a special ranking.

Instead, the WTA will use its "special ranking rule" that was written in case of long-term injuries such as that suffered by Graf, who has said she will be out through at least the tour championships in New York in November.

Graf would be eligible to return at number three because that was where she was rated after her final event before the layoff, in this case the French Open.

Graf could use her special ranking for entry into 11 tournaments, one of them a Grand Slam, should she be out until the Australian Open.

While her special ranking would be used for acceptance into events and some seeding cases, her actual ranking in the tour top 20 would be based on her prior showings over 52 weeks.

Aussies face U.S. in Davis Cup showdown

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Extra tension was the last thing needed in this week's Davis Cup semi-final tie here between Australia and the United States.

But after Aussie Pat Rafter rolled over Michael Chang in a semi-final on his way to the U.S. Open title and a world number three ranking, the stage was set for an epic showdown between the legendary Davis Cup foes.

"This makes it a lot more interesting," Chang said. "If we were to win, it would make it a little sweeter."

Play begins here Friday on the Fitzgerald Center hardcourts with World No.



Michael Chang

1 Pete Sampras, second-ranked Chang and Jim Courier and Alex O'Brien facing the hosts.

Rafter and Mark Philippoussis lead the Aussies, with the world's top-rated doubles duo of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde and reserve Jason Stoltenberg also ready.

The Woodies have set aside squabbles in the wake of a first-round ouster at the U.S. Open and are favourites against whatever

tandem the U.S. send forth, likely Sampras in an unusual doubles role with Courier.

Combined with Rafter's resurgence in the U.S. national championship and the defeat of Sampras in the fourth round of the Open, U.S. players have something to prove.

"You don't need any extra incentive to play in the Davis Cup," Sampras said. "You're playing for your country."

The winner faces either Sweden or Italy in November for the trophy.

The Americans have a 24-19 record against the Aussies since their first Davis Cup meeting in 1905. But Australia is 15-14 in finals meetings and won the most recent duel, 4-1 in the 1993 opening round.

The Aussies have not won a Davis Cup tie in a U.S. venue since 1973, when they swept the Americans 5-0 in the finals on carpet at Cleveland.

Rafter took five days off after his U.S. Open triumph but has not lost sight of the Davis Cup prize.

"To get up for a Davis Cup match isn't difficult," Rafter said.

He knows because it was a Davis Cup first-round victory over France's Cedric Pioline that helped revive his season. Rafter won the last three sets after some words of wisdom from Davis Cup captain John Newcombe.

"He had a lot of confidence in me I didn't have in myself," Rafter said. "I was playing for my country and I felt I had so much to give. I had to give more than I ever had for myself personally."

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Mexicans face-off for vacant title

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mexican boxing stars Julio Cesar Chavez and Miguel Angel Gonzalez are to stage a showdown in Mexico City on October 25 for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) super-lightweight title, promoter Don King revealed here Monday.

The legendary Chavez, who reigned as the WBC super-lightweight champion from 1989-1996 successfully defended the title 18 times before losing to Oscar De La Hoya after suffering a cut over his left eye.

Gonzalez faced de la Hoya for the title in January but lost a 12-round decision.

Chavez, who has an incredible record of 100 wins against two losses and one draw and who has stopped 83 opponents by knockout, will be challenging for a world title for the first time since he regained his WBC crown from Frankie Randall on May 7, 1994.

Although some observers expected the 35-year-old Chavez to retire after his 100th career victory over Larry La Courriere earlier this year — the unanimous ten-round decision prompted the former champion to continue his career.

Gonzalez, who has lost only once in 43 fights and who has stopped 32 of his opponents, vacated his WBC lightweight title to move up in weight. He is hoping to keep his record in his hometown, which perfect, now standing at 16-0.

The undercard will feature two unbeaten strawweight champions in a unification bout, with Mexico's Ricardo Lopez, who has won 46 contests, making his 21st consecutive WBC title defence against WBA champion Rosendo Alvarez of Nicaragua. Alvarez has won 24 bouts and scored 16 knockouts.

Lopez, boxing's longest-reigning champion, won the title in 1990 by knocking out Hideyuki Ohashi in Tokyo. Since then only three rivals have gone the distance and 10 were stopped before the end of round six.

Alvarez, who has defended his title in Japan, Nicaragua and Thailand, last fought in January when he stopped Songkram Porpaoin in the 11th round.

WBC middleweight champion Keith Holmes will defend his title against fellow American Paul Vaden in a fight postponed from June due to a hand injury suffered by Holmes.

Holmes (29-1 with 19 knockouts) has won 22 fights in a row, 17 by knockouts. Vaden (27-1 with 14 knockouts) lost a 12-round decision to Terry Norris in his only defence of the IBF junior middleweight crown.

Jordan Football Association to impose stringent measures in 1998

JFA cancels JD21,000 in fines imposed on 42 clubs

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Football Association (JFA) plans to take more stringent measures in the upcoming season hoping to cut down on the number of bookings and suspensions imposed upon players and team officials alike.

The announcement came following the pardon granted by JFA President HRH Prince Abdullah Monday in celebration of Jordan's gold medal win at the Pan-Arab Games in July.

JFA vice-president Saleh Irshaidat told reporters that the pardon was intended to "open a new page in Jordanian soccer following the national team's history-making achieve-

ment."

"We now have a bigger responsibility in trying to maintain the good from we displayed and in trying to maintain a good name for Jordanian soccer."

The pardon included 1 match bookings as well as suspensions. The JFA cancelled over JD 21,000 in fines benefiting 42 clubs and 90 players.

Dr. Irshaidat said as of the 1998 season, the JFA would be handing a life suspension to players suspended twice for 6 matches in a single season.

Players physically attacking referees would be accountable to the International Football Federation FIFA

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jamaica beats Costa Rica

KINGSTON (AP) — Jamaica, bidding to become the second Caribbean nation to qualify for the World Cup, beat visiting Costa Rica 1-0 Sunday and moved ahead of the United States into second place in the regional finals. Deon Burton scored 11 minutes into the second half at Kingston. Jamaica is unbeaten in 29 consecutive home games. Jamaica could become the first Caribbean nation to make it to the tournament since Haiti in 1974.

Brolin ponders switch

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Leeds maverick Tomas Brolin is considering a surprise offer to join Scottish Premier division outfit Hearts on loan. The unsentimental Swedish international met with Hearts manager Jim Jefferies on Monday in Edinburgh with a view to a deal. Jefferies said: "There's been no agreement as yet, but we have spoken with Tomas about coming to Tynecastle on loan. 'Whether he liked what he saw remains to be seen as he has oow gone home to consider his options — at the moment it is just a possibility.' The 27-year-old Brolin, who played a leading role in Sweden's run to the 1994 World Cup semi-finals, joined Leeds from Italian Serie A side Parma in a 4.5 million pounds (about \$7 million) move two years ago but has struggled to settle, spending loan periods at both Zurich and back at Parma.

Valencia sack Valdano

VALENCIA (AFP) — Spanish First Division giants Valencia have sacked their Argentine manager Jorge Valdano after one of their worst-ever starts to a season — they have yet to win and are pointless after three matches. Club president Francisco Roig said on Monday that the decision had been "backed unanimously" by the board of directors. Valencia lost their third match in a row at the weekend when they were beaten 2-1 by Racing Santander leaving them second from bottom having just scored only two goals and conceded seven. Valdano, who coached Real Madrid to the 1995 Spanish title and won the 1986 World Cup as a player, took over as manager at the start of last season when Valencia finished in tenth place.

Chang misses Beijing event

BEIJING (AFP) — World No. 2 Michael Chang has decided not to play in this month's \$328,000 China Open ATP event in Beijing, disappointing his massive China following. The Chinese-American is a past winner of the event, but has also decided against playing in an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong where he has been a past favourite. The China Open starts September 29 and the field is now dominated by former World No. 1 Jim Courier, 33rd-ranked Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 42nd-ranked Martin Damm of the Czech Republic and 44th-ranked Australian Mark Woodforde.

Likhovtseva not playing

TOKYO (AFP) — Sixth-seeded Elena Likhovtseva of Russia pulled out of the \$450,000 Princess Cup women's tennis tournament without hitting a ball, it was announced Tuesday. The 22-year-old Russian suffered a kidney infection and is being treated by a doctor in Tokyo, a WTA spokeswoman said. Japan's Haruka Inoue replaced her as a lucky loser, while Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia took Likhovtseva's place as a ninth seed.

Fittipaldi out of hospital

MIAMI (AFP) — Emerson Fittipaldi, Brazil's two-times Formula One and Indianapolis 500 champion, was released from hospital here on Monday — three days after surgery to repair a spinal fracture. A spokesperson for Jackson Memorial Hospital said Fittipaldi was able to walk away despite injuries suffered on September 7 when a small plane he was piloting crashed in Brazil. Fittipaldi, 50, will wear a lightweight plastic brace for six months and must refrain from any "high-risk or high-velocity sports" for a year, said Steve Olvey, a veteran Indy-car doctor. But he said he expected the driver to make a full recovery. Fittipaldi, who won the world Formula One crown with Lotus in 1972 and McLaren in 1974 and who triumphed at the Indy 500 in 1989 and 1993, has not raced since a near-fatal crash at Brooklyn, Michigan, on July 28, 1996.

U.S., British teams vie for land speed record

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A British team and a U.S. team are competing in Nevada's Blackrock Desert to establish a land-speed record and be the first to hurdle through the sound barrier.

Britain's Richard Noble holds the current land-speed record. On October 4, 1983, he reached a breakneck speed of 1,019.4 kilometres per hour aboard a jet-powered vehicle.

The speed of sound in Black Rock Desert — elevation 1,600 metres — is 1,206 kilometres per hour.

The British team is headed by Noble, 51. Craig Breedlove, a 60-year-old American, heads the U.S. effort.

In the 1960s, Breedlove was known as the world's fastest man. He was the first

to break the 640-kilometre barrier, the 800-kilometre barrier and the 965-kilometre barrier.

Dubbed "Thrust SCC," the British vehicle is equipped with two Rolls Royce engines. Some 16.5 metres in length and weighing some 6.8 tonnes, it has a thrust of 22,680 kilos and consumes 18 litres per second.

It can reach speeds of 100 kilometres an hour in 2.5 seconds and 1,000 kilometres in 16 seconds. Its designers say it can reach

maximum speed of 1,400 kilometres per hour in 30 seconds.

Its rival, the "Spirit of America" is propelled by a single General Electric Motor previously used by a F-4 Phantom II U.S. Navy fighter.

It has a thrust of some 10,250 kilos, measures 13.5 metres, weighs some four tonnes and consumes 23.6 litres per kilometre.

Unlike Thrust SCC, Spirit of America has had to overcome mechanical and

financial glitches.

On September 8, a foreign object penetrated the motor and forced the team to ship the vehicle back to California for repairs. Last Friday, the team said it was suspending its efforts for lack of money.

On Monday, however, Spirit of America was back in Black Rock Desert. Cherie Danson, spokeswoman for the U.S. effort, said it could blast into the record books as early as this week.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4878 4AQJ103 27 4J652
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A - You have a known eight-card fit, so you have a perfect raise to two spades. We don't like suppressing that excellent heart suit either, but if you respond two hearts the bidding could get out of control.

Q.2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4J7532 Void 654 4QJ532
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A - We don't think it would be fair to let partner stew in one heart at 100 per cent undertrick when the opponents might have a better fit in the suit than you do. We would ace the pot by bidding out to one spade. Odds are pretty good you will improve the contract.

Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
4Q32 2K88 4A743 4Q106
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two spades. What do you respond?

A - Despite a balanced hand with stoppers in every suit, don't even contemplate jumping to three no trump. Partner surely has an unbalanced hand, and chances for slams are excellent. Your first duty is to set the trump suit. Raise to three spades.

Q.4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4KJ10 2AK7 4AQ863 4A8
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 2 Pass Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - While we like to play that a jump to two no trump in the balancing position is strong, its upper limit is 19-20. With your hand you must first double, then jump in no trump at your next turn.

Q.5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4AQ10 2A73 4AQ42 4Q92
Partner opens the bidding with four spades. What action do you take?

A - Our sympathies if you elected to blast out six spades, only to watch in horror as the opponents cash two club tricks at the opening gun. Even if partner has the ace or king of clubs, 12 tricks are not guaranteed — the four-level vulnerable preempt promises eight playing tricks and you have three. With one of the realm at stake, we would pass.

Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4A1063 2K34 4AQJ973 44
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A - That depends on your methods. If you play that a jump raise is forcing, by all means bid three spades. If it is a limit raise, bid two diamonds now then jump in spades at your next turn. And if you play spades high, this is a near-perfect hand for a jump to four clubs.

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Turkish, Iraqi officials discuss Ankara's relations with Israel

Demirel tries to assure Egypt over war games

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A senior Turkish official and Iraqi leaders discussed Ankara's military cooperation with Israel, which has stirred protests in the Arab World, official newspapers said Tuesday.

They said the talks with Onur Oymen, undersecretary at the foreign ministry, also covered Turkey's relations with the Arab World and security along the Turkish-Iraqi border.

During his two-day visit, which ended on Tuesday, Mr. Oymen met Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Sahhaf and Ezzat Ibrahim, vice president of the decision-making Revolutionary Command Council.

As part of efforts to dampen

Arab criticism of its links with Israel, Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel held talks the same day with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak said he received assurances that Turkey's joint naval manoeuvres with Israel would be limited to search-and-rescue operations.

"At the beginning the exercises were suspicious," Mr. Mubarak told a joint news conference in the northern Egyptian city of Alexandria after talks with Mr. Demirel.

"All the Arabs were concerned but President Demirel has reassured me that they will be limited to search and rescue," Mr. Mubarak said.

The Turkish president stressed that the manoeuvres

in the eastern Mediterranean were "not against third countries."

"Our relations with Israel are not against third countries. No one should have any suspicions. Turkey is a peaceful country and we have no problems with Arab countries to settle using force," Mr. Demirel said.

In Baghdad, Mr. Oymen delivered a verbal message for President Saddam Hussein from Mr. Demirel reaffirming Ankara's support for "Iraq's independence and territorial integrity," Iraq News Agency reported.

Mr. Oymen said his talks with Iraqi officials were "fruitful," and added that the number of staff at the Turkish embassy in Baghdad was to be increased.

Iran, Arab neighbours want to restore trust in bid to renew ties

DUBAI (R) — Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours want to move towards restoring trust in the often tense region, ministers from both sides of the strategic waterway said.

In separate remarks made on the same day, the foreign ministers of Iran and the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) spoke of a possible new phase in relations between states which control over 60 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

The GCC ministers said Monday after talks in Saudi Arabia they were encouraged by "positive" statements by Iran's new moderate President Mohammad Khatami "directing his government to open a new page in relations with the GCC countries."

"The council... expressed hope that the coming phase will witness a positive and practical development in relations between the council members and Iran to build trust and consolidate relations based on a solid basis to achieve security and stability in the region," said a GCC statement.

The statement by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the

United Arab Emirates (UAE) appeared to strike a conciliatory note by avoiding the usual Arab concerns over Iran's armament programme and its alleged interference in GCC internal affairs.

Iran has repeatedly denied the charges, made in almost every statement issued at a GCC meeting over the last few years.

In spite of the softer tone, the latest statement reiterated warnings to the Islamic Republic that it had to end what the GCC called its occupation of three Gulf islands claimed by both Iran and the UAE.

Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told reporters in Tehran hours before the GCC statement that mending relations with the Arab states was a priority for Iran's new government.

He said he was planning to visit the Gulf states "at the earliest convenient time."

Iranian officials are determined to build understanding with the said states, the official news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Kharrazi as saying. "We hope that we will achieve more understanding with

them."

He said the dispute over the islands could be settled in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding.

Hopes for better relations between non-Arab Iran and the GCC have risen since Khatami's election in May and official Iranian comments on the desire for building trust in the region.

Mr. Khatami has signalled a new era in Tehran's attitude to foreign relations, calling for an "active and fresh presence."

Iran had repeatedly charged that its main foe, the United States, was deliberately misrepresenting Iran to its neighbours as an excuse to sell them arms and justify its military presence in the region.

The United States charges Iran with supporting international terrorism and posing a threat to the security of the region. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told the GCC ministers at a meeting in Saudi Arabia Sunday that Mr. Khatami's election was a "possibly hopeful" development, but that it was unclear if this would lead to changes in Iran.

Albright wins Arab friends on Middle East tour for now

BEIRUT (R) — A debut Middle East trip by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that many thought would be an Arab-bashing tour focusing on the evils of terrorism has ended up winning her new friends in the Arab World — for now.

Ms. Albright embarked on her six-country swing in the shadow of two bombings that killed a total of 20 Israelis in Jerusalem and were widely blamed on Hamas, a militant group opposing the peace process with Israel.

The clear message she received from Israel and its backers in the U.S. Congress was that her trip should focus on forcing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and his Arab allies to crack down on the militants, leaving peace process issues aside.

Ms. Albright duly hammered away at the terrorism theme in Israel, the West Bank and the Arab states she visited — Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Lebanon.

And yet, by the time her tour ended Monday, Arab leaders were falling over themselves to pay her compliments.

"Something fresh in the air," said His Majesty King Hussein. "Brave and frank," declared Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reportedly told her the whole area was looking at her "in a completely new light."

Gallantry towards

more remarkable given the hostile reviews that Ms. Albright has received during her eight months in office from an Arab press that has portrayed her as a one-sided partisan of Israel.

The Arab media, largely government-controlled or influenced, saw her fears confirmed when Ms. Albright weighed in on her arrival in Jerusalem last Wednesday with a paean of praise for Israel and strong reaffirmation of U.S. support.

"No country has demonstrated a stronger will than Israel to deny to oppressors and murderers the victories they seek," she said in a speech that mentioned Zionism founder Theodore Herzl.

She also insisted that guerrilla bombings were atrocities in a class of their own, brushing aside suggestions by Palestinians she met that mid-night arrests, land confiscations and house demolitions carried out by Israel were "terrorism" of another kind.

And yet, two days after her arrival, Ms. Albright dropped a bombshell in a speech to Israeli students by calling on Israel to declare a "time-out" in its policy of expanding Jewish settlements, saying it was provocative to the Palestinians.

Israel, startled by a demand that the U.S. has not voiced publicly for years despite its known opposition to the settlements, said it could not possibly impose a freeze.

Arab diplomats said their governments had been impressed not only by Ms. Albright's comments on settlements but also by her pub-

lic reaffirmation of policies that the U.S. has soft-pedalled in recent times.

These include the principle of land-for-peace, which Washington stopped talking about as soon as Israel's new Likud government dropped the phrase last year, and commitment to U.N. resolutions that call for return of Israeli-occupied land.

Ms. Albright's visit has already reaped some rewards that even she has described as modest. Israel has welcomed an improvement in security cooperation from the Palestinians and has handed over some tax and customs revenues it had owed them.

In addition, senior Israeli and Palestinian officials will meet in Washington next week to discuss ways of reviving their peace talks, which broke down last March.

How long Ms. Albright's honeymoon with the Arab states will last depends in part on how her new-found interest in tackling the Middle East impasse survives amid the difficult political climate in Washington and the general press of world events.

"What is important now is the lack of recommendation she will submit to President [Bill] Clinton and what will be the next steps," Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said in Amman.

Among other things, Ms. Albright will have to confront a U.S. Congress that strongly supports Israel and is sceptical of Palestinian commitment to Israel's security. Winning friends in Cairo or Riyadh may not cut much ice on Capitol Hill.



SELLING LIKE HOT CAKES: Two girls take advantage of final day sales to buy mooncakes at a discount Tuesday on the start of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Chinese offer the rich cakes in fancy packages as gifts and at night eat the cakes and watch the full harvest moon with friends and relatives or light decorative lanterns to celebrate the festival (AFP photo)

Doctor says Princess Diana's bodyguard now able to talk

PARIS (AP) — Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the lone survivor of the car crash that killed Princess Diana, is conscious and can talk, a doctor said Tuesday.

Mr. Rees-Jones, whose testimony is considered vital to the investigation of the crash, has been taken off artificial respiration and is expected to be self-sufficient within the coming days, said Pierre Coriat, chief of anaesthesiology at the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital where Mr. Rees-Jones has been recovering.

"The condition of Mr. Trevor Rees-Jones has noticeably improved. He was able to be taken off artificial respiration and the infection of his lung [injury] is under control," Dr. Coriat said.

"He is perfectly conscious

and can communicate well, though tired quickly," Dr. Coriat said in a statement.

Mr. Rees-Jones, 29, was badly injured in the Aug. 31 crash that killed Princess Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul. He is believed to be the only one who was wearing a seat belt.

Dr. Coriat did not say whether Mr. Rees-Jones had spoken yet about the crash.

It also was unclear whether he has learned that Diana, Fayed and Paul died in the crash, just when investigators would question him and how much longer he would have to remain in hospital.

Mr. Rees-Jones, a bodyguard employed by the Fayed family, has been recuperating since undergo-

ing extensive facial reconstruction surgery following the crash.

Except for doctors, only his wife and parents have been allowed at his bedside, and a phalanx of police have guarded his door.

Investigators hope Mr. Rees-Jones can shed light on major questions in the inquiry, including the role of photographers trailing Diana, the speed the car was travelling and the condition of Paul, whose test show was legally drunk at the time of the accident.

Police reportedly have expressed concern that the shock of the accident and large doses of anaesthesia used during surgery could hinder Mr. Rees-Jones' ability to remember the circumstances of the crash.

A third blood test, con-

ducted a week and half ago to confirm two earlier tests, showed Paul had an alcohol-level more than three times the legal limit at the time of the wreck. He also had taken the anti-depressant prozac and tiapride, which is used to prevent aggression, and treat abnormal movements and alcoholism.

The speed of the car also has been an important focus of the investigation. Various reports have said the Mercedes was travelling up to nearly 200 kilometres per hour.

Nine photographers and a motorcycle courier are under formal investigation for manslaughter and failure to help people in danger. They haven't been formally charged.

Israeli filming of Harrison Ford movie scrapped on security fears — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. producers have scrapped plans to film part of a movie starring Harrison Ford in Israel after insurance companies refused to provide coverage due to security fears, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday.

About \$3 million were budgeted for Israeli scenes of the \$85 million film, "The Age of Aquarius," the newspaper said.

The film is being produced by Brancu Lustig, who also produced Stephen Spielberg's Holocaust film "Schindler's List," and is directed by Phil Robinson. Insurers refused to provide coverage for filming inside Israel due to the worsening security situation linked to the breakdown of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, it said, quoting Israelis involved in the project.

Zvi Spielman, director of the Israeli film production company which was to have coordinated local filming for "The Age of Aquarius," said numerous international film projects had been cancelled in recent years since the Israeli government stopped providing subsidised insurance against "damage from war."

"Without this insurance it is difficult to convince foreigners that Israel is a fairly safe place," he told the Haaretz.

News of the decision not to bring Ford and his team to Israel came after two bombings in Jerusalem on July 30 and September 4.

Guard who saved Nazi records demands Switzerland's apology

TEL AVIV (R) — A Swiss security guard who saved Nazi-era records from a bank shredder demanded on Tuesday that Switzerland apologise after threats of death and kidnapping forced him and his family to flee to the U.S.

Christoph Meili, 29, blew the whistle on Switzerland's biggest bank in January. He spoke in Jerusalem where a boys' school honoured him and where he hoped to find Jewish Holocaust survivors who might benefit from the records he uncovered.

"I need from Switzerland an apology. I want an apology from the government and this has not come," Mr. Meili told a news conference. He said he hoped someday to return home.

The Zurich district prosecutor expects to decide by October whether to charge Mr. Meili for breaching bank secrecy laws or to let him off for the incident at the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). Mr. Meili, a Christian, lost his job as a night watchman at the bank for smuggling out documents to Jewish leaders in Zurich that he found about to be shredded.

"In all the world I am a hero. In Switzerland, no. The people say, 'why have you stolen the documents? Why have you broken the bank secrecy law?' The people do not ask in Switzerland: 'what

is this? What's going on now?'" Mr. Meili said.

His discovery damaged the bank's efforts to battle criticism from world Jewish groups that they were withholding assets left by victims of the Nazi Holocaust which killed six million Jews during World War II.

Mr. Meili, his wife and two children fled in April, settling in New York. The U.S. Congress called him a hero. President Bill Clinton approved permanent U.S. residency in July. Mr. Meili is getting help from donors but hopes to get a job soon.

Mr. Meili told the news conference he fled Switzerland when people accused him of spying for Israel's Mossad and threatened to kidnap his children and to kill him and his family.

"People began to ask me, 'you are a spy? You work for the Mossad? Jewish people pay for you?' and I received more and more death-threat letters. I received letters that people will kill my kids," he said.

Switzerland's banks have faced accusations they are covering up a wartime role nurturing Nazi economic dependency and hoarding huge wealth of Holocaust victims.

Edward Fagan, an attorney for Holocaust survivors in a suit against the Swiss banks,

told reporters: "The banks are afraid of Christoph Meili."

"He found the proof, the inter-connection between the Nazis' bankers and the Jewish money," he said.

Swiss President Arnold Koller said in July there was no reason to apologise to Mr. Meili. UBS called the shredding a regrettable mistake made by its chief archivist.

Three weeks before the bank incident, Switzerland enacted a law making it illegal to destroy documents related to an investigation into bank dealings with the Nazis and Jewish assets from the Holocaust.

Mr. Meili said he rescued the documents out of anger. "I was thinking the survivors have a right to see these documents," he said. "All the shredding just made me very angry."

While in Israel, Mr. Meili vowed to visit the Mount Zion grave of German businessman Oskar Schindler, the hero of Steven Spielberg's movie "Schindler's List," who saved 1,200 Jewish factory workers from death at the hands of the Nazis.

"Schindler's List" inspired me. I saw his movie before I found the documents in the UBS Swiss bank. I also — when I had these documents in my hand — had a feeling that something is wrong and I must do something. I must save these documents."

Spanish MP elected head of IPU

CAIRO (AFP) — The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on Tuesday elected Spanish Deputy Miguel Angel Martinez as its new president for the next three years at a meeting in Cairo.

Mr. Martinez, 57, received 127 votes against 88 obtained by rival candidate Purno Agitok Sangma

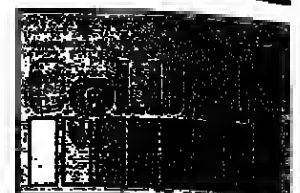
of India while Eduardo Menem of Argentina withdrew from the race.

Mr. Martinez will replace the speaker of Egypt's People's Assembly Ahmad Fathi Suor who chaired the 98th session of the IPU.

The six-day session of the IPU also rejected a demand by Arab countries to grant

membership to the Palestinian National Council (PNC), a parliament-in-exile. The PNC holds observer status.

The committee asked to examine the requested argued that the PNC had failed to meet all the conditions needed for full membership, Mr. Suor said.



Dancing dolls kick up storm in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) —

Scantly-clad dancing dolls that perform a steamy South American dance routine climaxing in a passionate embrace have walled their way into Iranian shops, the press here reported Tuesday. The mechanical and musical dolls, a Latino man and woman entwined together, perform the popular Lambada dance, said the press, which described the toys as "depraved." Papers described the dolls as "half-naked," which in deeply conservative and religious Iran is usually used to refer to women who do not cover their heads with a scarf or wear the full-length shador. The dolls are manufactured in Azerbaijan and are smuggled into Iran to be sold for \$3.

Music, politics and eclipse for Hong Kong's Mid-Autumn Festival

HONG KONG (AFP) — Chinese orchestras, dance troupes and Democrats fought for the attention of the Hong Kong public on Wednesday night as thousands of people packed parks to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. The traditional celebrations were Hong Kong's first under Chinese rule since the territory was returned by Britain on July 1. It also fell on the night of the last eclipse of the moon in Asia this century.

Eurogreens want Algerian to get human rights prize

STASBOURG (AFP) — Greens in the European Parliament said Tuesday they wanted a top human rights prize to be awarded to the female editor of an Algerian daily newspaper, Salima Ghezali. They said Ghezali, who edits the independent La Nation, symbolised "someone who seeks a peaceful solution for her country without minding their words." Ghezali is the only woman in the Arab World in charge of a daily newspaper and has long campaigned for human rights, female emancipation and freedom of expression, they said.

In Miami, filming begins on Versace murder movie

MIAMI (AFP) — Filming is under way on the first movie about the brutal slaying of Italian designer Gianni Versace just two months after the crime. Directed by Menahem Golan, with Stephen Bauer playing a FBI agent, Shane Perdue as gay hustler Andrew Cunanan and Franco Nero portraying Versace, the low-budget film is expected to be out around Christmas. Late Monday, traffic was blocked on ever-bustling Las Olas boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, just north of Miami, as film crews took positions and began the shoot of "The Versace Murder."

Douglas, Irons, Moreau star at San Sebastian film festival

SAN SEBASTIAN (AFP) — Michael Douglas, Jeremy Irons and Jeanne Moreau will be the stars of the San Sebastian film festival opening Thursday, when 15 films compete for the top award. Douglas, star of David Fincher's "The Game" which opens the festival, is to receive the Prix Donostia, a career in cinema which has included hits such as "Wall Street" and "Instinct."

Czech president to visit Kingdom

Volume 22 Number 6639

King bid successful

His Majesty King

cooperation

In reply about Jordan

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